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Ex-Intern Said to Get Subpoena From Starr

Indignant About Leaks, President to Ask Court To Punish Prosecutors

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Monica Lewinsky is scheduled to appear Thursday before a federal grand jury investigating allegations that President Bill Clinton had an affair with her and then asked her to lie about it.

The former White House intern had been subpoenaed more than a week ago to testify, but with talks aimed at gaining her cooperation then under way, prosecutors had held off on scheduling her appearance. When those talks broke off late last week, prosecutors set the date, sources told The Associated Press.

Ms. Lewinsky is expected to return from California, where she is visiting her father.

The legal wrangling around the case also continued Monday with the Clinton administration prepared to take a major step in its counterattack against the credibility of prosecutors.

"We've had a series of mischaracterizations, misstatements, inaccurate information," Ann Lewis, the White House communications director, said on ABC-TV. "That's exactly why David Kendall, who's the president's lawyer, is going to court today to seek a remedy."

The White House said Monday that Mr. Kendall, a private attorney for Mr. Clinton, would file a sealed motion with the federal district court before asking that the office of Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, be found in contempt for illegally revealing secret grand jury proceedings to reporters. The motion sought criminal sanctions against the source or sources of any leaks.

On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, the office of the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, confirmed that House Republican leaders last week discussed funding to hire investigators and staff members for the Judiciary Committee if Mr. Starr provides evidence to the panel that could lead to impeachment proceedings.

Should Ms. Lewinsky testify before the grand jury Thursday, it would be the most electrifying development in what has been an explosive case. For now, however, that appears unlikely.

Ms. Lewinsky's attorneys had been negotiating with the independent counsel's office for an offer of legal immunity for her in exchange for her testimony, but the talks broke down late last

See STARR, Page 10

Alpine Skiing Snowed Out

Nagano's Quirky Weather Delays All Mountain Events

By Bob Baum
The Associated Press

HAKUBA, Japan — A month ago, the mayor of Hakuba led the people of his village and Olympic officials in a prayer ceremony asking the gods for snow. The gods have obliged, and then some.

On Sunday and Monday, huge flakes cascaded from the sky, transforming the Japanese Alps into a glorious winter landscape, but wreaking havoc on the Olympic Alpine skiing schedule.

Not a single Alpine race has been run. First, the men's downhill scheduled for Sunday was postponed. On Monday, the men's combined slalom and the women's snowboarding giant slalom were canceled and rescheduled for Tuesday, with the two runs sandwiched around the women's super-G.

The men's downhill is now scheduled for Wednesday. That pushed back the downhill portion of the men's combined to Thursday.

"It's just a crazy place where you have to deal with some pretty tough coastal weather systems," said Ed Podivinsky, a Canadian who was bronze medalist in the downhill at the 1994 Olympics.

In the quirky Japanese winter, though, all was subject to change.

At daybreak Monday, the thickly falling snow left a wet, cool glaze on the earnest faces of the

See SNOW, Page 22



GOLDEN SLED — George Hackl of Germany winning his third Olympic gold medal in the luge on Monday. Page 22.

3,000 U.S. Troops Slated for Kuwait

But Leading Republican Calls For Other Ways to Rein In Iraq

Reuters

MUSCAT, Oman — U.S. commanders have requested up to 3,000 ground troops for deployment to Kuwait in the crisis with Iraq, officials traveling with Defense Secretary William Cohen said Monday.

The soldiers are a precaution to protect the Gulf state from any Iraqi response to the campaign of air strikes that Washington is planning, a senior military official said.

General Anthony Zinni of the Marine Corps, who commands U.S. forces in the Middle East, asked the Pentagon for the troops and the request is being processed, a Pentagon spokesman said.

In Washington, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said that any attack on Iraq would be substantial — "not pinpricks."

"Unless Iraq's policies change, we will have no choice but to take strong measures," she said in a speech in Washington. "Do not doubt: We have the authority to do this, the responsibility to do this and the means and the will."

But Mrs. Albright stressed that the goal was specifically to disrupt President Saddam Hussein's plans to make biological and chemical weapons and missiles to carry them, and not, as some Americans have urged, to overthrow the Iraqi leader.

She said that "the administration does not agree with those who suggest we should deploy hundreds of thousands of American troops to engage unilaterally in a ground war in Iraq aimed at goals that could not be achieved" in the 1991 Gulf War.

The Republican majority leader in the U.S. Senate, Trent Lott, said Monday that the White House ought to explore alternatives to military action against Iraq, including efforts to turn the Iraqi public against its leaders.

While Congress still intends to pass a bipartisan resolution to demonstrate unity behind President Clinton's policies, the Mississippi senator suggested other actions could be taken that would fall between diplomatic negotiation and the use of military force.

He said he would like the United States to "find ways to limit" Mr. Saddam's "ability to spew his venom to the people and have a 'Radio Free Iraq,' for instance." Mr. Lott said the actions could include jamming of Iraqi radio broadcasts or U.S. broadcasts into Iraq to counter Mr. Saddam's message.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, said six F-117A Stealth fighters, six F-16 fighters, six B-52 heavy bombers and one B-1 bomber would start leaving by midweek to augment the force of more than 300 U.S. planes already in the Gulf region.

The ground troops, infantrymen from Fort Hood, Texas, would join about 1,500 U.S. soldiers in Kuwait for Intrinsic Action, a permanent joint exercise between U.S. and Kuwaiti forces.

An amphibious force of about 2,200 Marines, aboard four vessels led by the Guam, an amphibious assault ship, is on its way to the Gulf from the Mediterranean. But under current plans these troops would not come ashore.

Asked when all U.S. forces would be in place in the Gulf, the official said: "We're looking at a week to 10 days."

The officials were speaking aboard Mr. Cohen's plane shortly before he landed in Oman on the third leg of a Gulf tour to brief regional leaders on the plans his commanders are preparing.

The Kuwaiti and Bahraini governments are willing to let U.S. combat planes operate from their territory but

See IRAQ, Page 10

Suharto Talks Up Economy as Unrest Spreads

Protesters Target Ethnic Chinese

By Keith B. Richburg
Washington Post Service

JAKARTA — With rioters burning down shops in the east of the country and protesters in front of the Central Bank here defiantly shouting against high prices, President Suharto hinted at new steps on Monday to try to shore up the currency and combat the rising prices of imported goods.

In brief remarks after a meeting with Muslim clerics, Mr. Suharto said, "We will decide a certain rate to allow companies to make correct calculations" for exports.

He gave no details, but suggested that new exchange rate terms could soon be set that would target raw materials needed to restart the stalled export manufacturing sector, as well as imported goods like medicines that have become prohibitively expensive for many here since the currency collapsed last year.

Spreading unrest in the provinces and mounting discontent in the capital pose the gravest challenge yet to Mr. Suharto, 76, the world's longest-serving leader after Fidel Castro.

In exactly a month, Mr. Suharto is expected to be unanimously appointed to another five-year term by an assembly whose members he himself largely appointed. But the plunge of the currency has sent prices soaring and stalled much of the country's productive business activity, and has left the gov-

See INDONESIA, Page 10



Demonstrators marching from Jakarta's central bank Monday to protest against high prices.

A Surprising Legal Aide in Clinton Case

Paula Jones Suit Won't Be 'Parade of Women,' Judge's Husband Says

By Lois Romano
Washington Post Service

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas — Last spring, when lawyers in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit met privately with the presiding judge, U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright, they were joined by a surprising observer — the judge's husband, Robert Wright, a law professor.

Some of the lawyers later told colleagues they were stunned by his presence. But many other lawyers in Little Rock, where the lawsuit against President Bill Clinton is being heard, believe Mr. Wright plays a significant role in his wife's decision-making, and he does not dispute it.

Judge Wright, 49, could be the first judge in history to try a case against a sitting president, and a two-hour conversation with her husband provided considerable insight into her thinking.

Over lunch last week, Mr. Wright said he was not speaking for his wife but made it clear that they discuss the matters before her and that he has offered her suggestions for her rulings.

"He said he helped his wife with a written memorandum for a key ruling in the early stages of the Jones case — that it should not go to trial until after Mr. Clinton had left office. The Supreme Court overturned the ruling in May."

Mr. Wright described his wife as having confronted the reality of her role and its possible implications for Mr. Clinton

when she recently had to fight to get to her car through a mob of reporters. The frenzied scene so disturbed her, he said, that she has asked the U.S. marshals for extra federal protection, including an escort to and from work.

In interviews with nearly three dozen Little Rock lawyers who have practiced

Clinton's embattled secretary. • His friends' role examined. Page 3.

before her on cases unrelated to Mr. Clinton, Judge Wright wins wide praise for her competence and evenhandedness. They say Judge Wright tends to veer toward a safe middle ground, studiously avoiding setting precedent. Her decision two weeks ago to bar from the Jones case any evidence about Monica Lewinsky, the White House intern whose relationship with Mr. Clinton is the subject of charges and countercharges in Washington, is viewed by many as her boldest decision in eight years on the bench.

Mr. Wright said that this ruling was

meant to signal that his wife would block attempts to turn the Jones trial into a symposium on the president's personal life. "She is not going to permit just a parade of women from coming through her court," he said. "She is going to keep it pretty tight."

Reports indicate that Mr. Clinton's advances toward Ms. Lewinsky "were not unwelcome — that they were consensual, which is not what Paula Jones is alleging," said Mr. Wright, 66, the Donaghey distinguished professor of law at the University of Arkansas law school at Little Rock.

Mr. Wright said he believed his wife would limit evidence on Mr. Clinton's personal life "to women who worked for the state or federal government" who may have been the subject of unwelcome advances from Mr. Clinton.

"From what I've heard, a lot of Bill Clinton's women have been satisfied customers," he added.

As for criticism that he is too involved

See JUDGE, Page 10

AGENDA

Shevardnadze Survives Attack

TBILISI, Georgia (AFP) — President Eduard Shevardnadze survived an assassination attempt Monday in the Georgian capital. The Iprinda news agency reported.

The Dollar		
New York	Monday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
DM	1.8165	1.8083
Pound	1.6295	1.6435
Yen	124.15	124.01
FF	6.0908	6.058

The Dow		
	Monday close	previous close
	8180.52	8189.49

S&P 500		
	Monday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
change	1010.74	1012.46

Books Page 11.

Crossword Page 11.

Opinion Pages 8-9.

Sports Pages 20-23.

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German Economists' Plea Probably Won't Stop Euro

By Edmund L. Andrews
New York Times Service

FRANKFURT — The large but largely ignored proportion of German voters who are hostile about adopting the single European currency, the euro, received a jolt of support this weekend when 155 German economists, including the chairman and four members of a weekend advisory council to the Economics Ministry, pleaded for a delay in the project.

Nevertheless, most experts continue to believe that the single currency will debut as scheduled next Jan. 1, because political leaders across Europe have invested too much in the effort to turn back now.

Despite polls showing that more than 70 percent of Germans are unhappy about the euro, the opposition Social Democratic Party has thus far refused to make the euro a campaign issue because voters appear too resigned to put up much of a fight.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who has staked his career on launching the euro next year and has paid little heed to the widespread popular unease among voters about giving up their trusted Deutsche marks, on Monday brusquely dismissed the economists' plea, saying that "the euro will come just as we have agreed in various treaties."

In their statement, published over the weekend in several newspapers, the economists argued that too many European countries had yet to get their fiscal houses in order and that the instruments for enforcing economic discipline in the monetary union were not credible.

The group said it did not oppose the euro as such, but called for a delay until countries reduced their budget deficits to safer levels.

If the euro cannot be delayed, they said, then only a small number of countries should be allowed to participate at the beginning. That would probably

See KOHL, Page 10

Afghan Villagers Fleeing Quake Zone

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HAIJAGHAR, Afghanistan — Fearing more tremors, hundreds of villagers were fleeing remote northeastern Afghanistan on Monday following an earthquake last week and aftershocks that killed thousands.

A Pakistani Air Force cargo plane brought the first major emergency aid to the stricken Rustak district, 250 kilometers (150 miles) north of the capital, Kabul. Other foreign aid workers were trekking overland on donkeys and horses.

An official with the military alliance that controls Takhar Province said Monday that at least 4,000 people had been killed. Previous estimates of the number killed by Wednesday's quake, which had a magnitude of 6.1, and subsequent tremors ranged from 2,000 to 5,000.

"The damage is enormous," Bart Ofryn, a representative of the French

group Doctors Without Borders, said by telephone from the area.

"It's a major emergency. Time is running out. We have no idea how many people are homeless and wounded, but the death toll is certain to exceed 4,000."

Twenty villages were destroyed or damaged when the tremors touched off devastating landslides, said Qari Amir Allam, who met the cargo flight at Hajjaghar airport, 40 kilometers west of the affected area.

Thousands of homeless are suffering in temperatures below freezing.

"The dead bodies now are frozen," Mr. Allam said. "We must dig them up and bury them properly."

Aid workers were initially skeptical about the high casualty figures that officials gave, noting that the region was sparsely populated and that officials in the past had exaggerated natural dis-

asters. Survivors were headed for the provincial capital of Taloan, 50 kilometers south of the devastated villages.

Tremors over the weekend killed 500 to 600 more people, the Afghan ambassador to India, Masood Khalili, said in New Delhi. Mr. Allam said the latest aftershock rumbled through one or two villages at about midnight Sunday, killing more than 200 people.

"We desperately need outside help," he said as Pakistani cadets and Afghan forces unloaded more than 200 blankets and 200 tents from the cargo jet, which later was returning to Islamabad.

A UN team was approaching Rustak on donkeys and horses after a truck convoy was unable to get through mountain passes covered in snow.

The UN trucks, carrying blankets, plastic sheeting and "high-protein biscuits, were expected to reach Rustak by another route Tuesday. (AP, Reuters)



Workers unloading relief supplies from a plane Monday at Hajjaghar.

Newstand Prices			
Bahrain	1,000 BD	Malta	55 c
Cyprus	€ £ 1.00	Nigeria	12500 Naira
Denmark	14.00 DKR	Oman	1,250 QR
Finland	12.00 FM	Qatar	10.00 QR
Gibraltar	£ 0.85	Rep. Ireland	IR £ 1.00
Great Britain	€ 0.90	Saudi Arabia	10 SR
Egypt	£E 5.50	S. Africa	R12 + VAT
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
Korea	K SH. 180	U.S. Mail (Eur)	\$ 1.20
Hong Kong	700 HK\$	Zimbabwe	Zm\$40.00

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Big Bird, Meet Da Niao / U.S. Children's Show Charms China

Can You Tell Me How to Get to 'Zhima Jie'?

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — Ding Xiaoyi, a Shanghai doctor who usually watches only sports and news on television, was flipping channels last week when he saw a fluffy, tall yellow bird talking to some children in a street scene. He called his 3-year-old daughter, Shuhui.

"She watched without blinking," Mr. Ding said. "She loved it. At the end she asked, 'Is there any more?'"

With last week's debut of a Chinese version of "Sesame Street" and Big Bird's virtually identical cousin, Da Niao, the Children's Television Workshop, which originated the hugely popular educational program "Sesame Street" in the United States, broke into its 17th international market and immediately won new fans among Chinese children and parents.

"The show is different from Chinese programs for children," Mr. Ding said. "It was lively, light-hearted and entertaining, yet educational. Normally, educational programs in China are very serious."



The Chinese equivalent of Big Bird, Da Niao, with his friends Hu Hu Zhu, left, and Xiao Meizi, and holding the characters for the numbers 1, 2 and 3.

The program is unusual in a country where the media in general and television in particular are closely controlled by the Communist Party. Education is a particularly sensitive topic, and the government has been advocating a higher level of "spiritual civilization" and Chinese values among young people. Indeed, leery of working with an American television group, Chinese Central Television and Beijing Television both rejected proposals to co-produce a Chinese version of "Sesame Street" before Shanghai Television seized the opportunity.

"It's been four years since we began," said Ye Chao, the co-producer of the show and head of Shanghai Television's children's programming. "Throughout the time, there is always somebody asking me whether the show is too Americanized. I don't think so at all. Television as a medium transcends the boundaries of countries."

Besides, Mr. Ye added, the program produced here is "very Chinese." About three-quarters of the program originates in Shanghai and the rest is selected from the "Sesame Street" archives by Shanghai Television and translated into Chinese.

Teachers and psychologists met for three days before production began to hammer out a "curriculum" for the program, including special emphasis on aesthetics and such themes as cooperation — especially important for children raised in the era of China's one-child policy. But to keep its content faithful to the "Sesame

Street" formula, the scripts were reviewed and often revised in New York.

"Writing for 'Sesame Street' is a special style," said Cooper Wright, a producer at Children's Television Workshop.

The Shanghai writers were used to longer, more serious scripts. "It was difficult for them to write something that was three minutes or less, was funny and had a punch line," Mr. Wright said.

In its Chinese incarnation, "Sesame Street" — translated literally into Chinese as "Zhima Jie" — stars Da Niao (literally "big bird"), who loves to eat bird-seed cookies, lives in a nest in a park, and is friendly and cheerful.

"We thought a long time about which main character to choose," said Mr. Ye of Shanghai Television. "We hesitated about Da Niao. We thought about a monkey or a panda — all of

these traditional things. But we eventually decided to choose Big Bird because he is a very beautiful and attractive character."

Da Niao's friends, Muppets with Chinese characteristics, include Hu Hu Zhu ("puffing pig") and Xiao Meizi ("little plum"), both created in cooperation with Jim Henson Productions.

The messages of the show aren't controversial, but the program has some unusual aspects. In many Chinese television programs, minorities in this overwhelmingly Han Chinese nation are often portrayed in a condescending or pejorative fashion.

By contrast, "Zhima Jie" last week included an installment on a Mongolian boy learning to play a traditional string instrument from his horse-herder father. The scene seemed natural and not stereotyped. Another segment portrayed a blind boy who outwits the other characters who try to identify various fruits while blindfolded.

In addition, the program flies in the face of Chinese and, in general, Asian pressure on young students to succeed at all costs. "Zhima Jie" included a segment about cartoon characters pushing a rock up a hill and failing, although they tried their best. Da Niao, the Big Bird character, also tries valiantly, though unsuccessfully, to perform some tasks, such as playing soccer goalie against one of the program's children.

General Electric chipped in about \$3 million to be listed as the show's sponsor, which will probably turn out to be cheap advertising. Shanghai Television invested \$1.2 million in "Zhima Jie" and devoted its highest studio to producing it. The station, which reaches tens of millions of viewers and hopes to syndicate the show to other cities later this year, stands to make millions of dollars on "Zhima Jie."

When syndication rights are offered this time, Beijing television will probably be interested.

For a Divided Israel at 50, Not a Very Happy Birthday

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — As Israel prepares to launch its 50th-anniversary celebrations, most of its 5.9 million citizens seem united — for once — on one thing: Practically no one is in a mood to celebrate.

This may seem paradoxical, for Israel's achievements of a half-century are signal. It has the strongest — some would say only — democracy in the Middle East, middle-class comforts unthinkable 20 years ago, one of the world's best-educated citizenries and a booming high-tech sector. Not least, the state's very survival is a tribute to armed forces of nearly mythic efficiency and daring.

Hollywood is preparing to lionize Israel with a \$6 million extravaganza in mid-April, just prior to the official anniversary celebration on April 30. Jews in the United States, Canada and Europe also are gearing up to party.

Yet Israel itself is in a sour mood, divided by profound and deepening rifts in a society not noted for its tolerance. At the same time, the four-year-old search for peace between Israelis and Palestinians is near collapse.

The cleavages in Israeli society — between religious Jews and secular ones, between European Jews and Jews with North African or Middle Eastern roots, between immigrants and native-born Israelis, between the country's Jewish and Arab citizens — were a secondary irritant for many years compared with Arab terrorism, the struggle with Palestinians and the threat of invasion from hostile Arab states.

With the perception that those dangers have diminished somewhat, the internal fault lines have ripped open with a vengeance, at times supplanting the struggle between Jews and Palestinians in the news media and the minds of many Israelis. Polls suggest that a majority of Israelis now believe the greatest threat to the state lies in the internal divisions among Jews, not the external threat.

"I had been looking forward to this year since I moved here," said Tania Hershman, a science writer in her late 20s who moved to Israel from England in 1994. "This was to have been the year of the great party, not now I just feel sad."

Small wonder, then, that the government committee appointed to arrange the birthday bash has turned into a spectacular fiasco. Three successive chairmen have resigned, allegations of corruption and mismanagement are flying, and the bitter personal feuds surrounding the committee resemble a hate fest more than a jubilee. Budgets have been slashed, and many of the grand events envisioned for the coming months have been canceled. Israelis have come to regard the committee as an unfunny national joke.

Although the circumstances — and threats — today are drastically different from those at Israel's perilous birth, the current storm clouds recall the remark of David Ben-Gurion, the state's founding prime minister, who said upon leading Israel to statehood in 1948, "I feel on gaiety in me, only deep anxiety."

Take the case of Omer Yekutieli. He has no particular plans to celebrate the anniversary this spring. He will be too busy fighting what he considers a war for the nation's soul.

Or take Avner Shem-Tov. He will not be attending the festivities planned for the anniversary. He would prefer that the government mark the date by cutting taxes.

The two meos — both of them native Israelis in early middle-age — have little in common. Each has a vision of how society should work that seems to exclude the other's.

Unusual for this nation of mostly recent immigrants, Mr. Yekutieli is that rare Israeli whose European Jewish forebears have been here for six generations. He is also secular to the point of atheism and fed up with what he sees as the encroachments of rigorously Orthodox Judaism in Israeli life.

Having spent his 20s and early 30s working with Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Mr. Yekutieli, now a Jerusalem city councilman in his early 40s, has lately

switched causes. Last year, he founded a movement called Free Nation to resist the inroads that rigorously Orthodox Jews, who now control a fifth of the seats in the Knesset, or Parliament, are making among Israel's large community of secular Jews.

It is a battle that touches aspects of daily life, such as whether some shops and malls may open on the Sabbath. It also raises questions of national identity, such as whether considered a Jew in Israel and whether any strand of Judaism but the rigorously Orthodox may perform conversions in the country. The latter question in particular has sparked nasty and highly personal attacks between ultra-Orthodox Jews and those who practice less restrictive forms of worship.

"When Israel had its 20th birthday when it was just a kid," Mr. Yekutieli said, "it had the best reasons in the world to celebrate."

"Now, when we're reaching 50," he added, "Israel is in so many bad turning points that the reason for its liberation is actually fading. I'd say now we've taken a huge step backward, becoming more and more medieval in our ways, anticultural, racist, chauvinist."

Mr. Yekutieli's vision of a live-and-let-live Israel is radically at odds with the view of

With the perception that external dangers have diminished, internal fault lines have ripped open.

Israeli Jews such as Mr. Shem-Tov, a member of Shas, the powerful rigorously Orthodox party that is a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government.

Mr. Shem-Tov, whose family came to Israel from Central Asia, joined Shas as a party worker at its founding a decade ago. Like many Israeli Jews of non-European roots, he had felt like an outsider, barred from the country's corridors of power.

In Shas, he found a party for have-nots that has used the language of racial aggression to challenge the status quo and advance its agenda. Last week, Shas lashed out at Israel's High Court of Justice, accusing it of elitism and racism against Jews of non-European origin.

Mr. Shem-Tov also was attracted by the Shas party's vision of what Israel would become — strictly observant of the Torah and Jewish law governing the preparation of food, the Sabbath, relations between men and women, and the procedures on conversion to Judaism.

To Mr. Shem-Tov, many of Israel's Jews are hardly Jews at all, particularly residents of Tel Aviv and the nearly 1 million recent immigrants from the former Soviet states, most of whom are largely ignorant of Judaism. "With God's help, I hope my daughter will not marry one," he said. "I hope they open their eyes and realize they're not in the land of Israel, not in Uganda."

For many Israelis, the "division" between religious and secular Jews has become the 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was gunned down by a rigorously Orthodox Jew. In polite company, most Israelis condemn the killing, yet even that is not universal. Some right-wing Orthodox Jews suggested that Mr. Rabin had brought misfortune upon himself by seeking to accommodate the Palestinians and endangering the nation's security.

There are signs that the dispute is tinged with violence. Rock-throwing and other clashes between Orthodox and secular Jews are common. Given the tensions, Mr. Shem-Tov says it would be ludicrous to mark Israel's 50th anniversary with a grand celebration. He would prefer a 20 percent municipal tax cut in Jerusalem.

"To celebrate is fine and good; we can raise our glasses and say, 'To life!'" he said. "But the problems will remain. It will be like a couple who gets married, exchanges toasts, eats and a half-hour later goes home and starts fighting."

Jewish Group Returns to Germany

Reuters

BERLIN — A prominent American Jewish official said Monday that the thousands of Jews arriving in Germany from Eastern Europe would help guard against far-right extremism.

The official, David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, said at a ceremony to open the council's first office in Germany since the Nazi era that Germany had the world's fastest growing Jewish community.

Jewish life is again making its presence felt in Germany, the country's president, Roman Herzog, was to say at the ceremony.

"There is a chance that this Jewish life can once again become an integral part of German culture and society," Mr. Herzog said, according to a copy of his speech released in advance. "It would have been audacious just a few years ago to even hope that would happen."

Germany agreed in 1990 to allow an unlimited number of Jews from the former Soviet bloc to immigrate. In the last eight years, the Jewish community in Germany has more than doubled, to 100,000, Mr. Harris said.

"The challenge to Jews in the coming years

will be to sustain and develop community life," he said. "The challenge for Germany will be to come to terms with a living and growing Jewish organism in its midst."

Mr. Harris said the opening of the council office in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz was a step toward improving the relationship between Jews and Germans.

Mr. Harris said the council would seek to bear witness to the past as the last generation of Holocaust survivors grows older.

"We want to help ensure the growing Jewish community," Mr. Harris said. "We owe extreme right-wing violence and the rise of a new right that seeks to create a new interpretation of history. Obviously, we reject this."

"Without eyewitnesses, without survivors, there is danger of forgetting," he added. "We believe the AJC has a role to play in the civil society of Germany."

Before the Nazis tried to exterminate the Jewish population in Europe, about 365,000 Jews lived in Germany.

When Germany united in 1990, there were officially about 27,000 Jews living in West Germany and only around 400 in East Germany.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Helsinki Transport Strike Ends

HELSINKI (Reuters) — Public transport drivers in Helsinki returned to work Monday after a weeklong strike over what they saw as threats to job security.

The Finnish news agency STT said a mediator's proposal had been accepted late Sunday, heading off a threat of sympathy strikes by airport workers and commuter train engineers.

New Attack on Bangkok Visitor

BANGKOK (AFP) — The image Thailand has sought to project, of a friendly "Land of Smiles," is at risk after the third attack on a woman tourist in two weeks.

One tourist has been murdered and two others injured. The police have vowed to crack down, starting with a request for all Bangkok hotels to supply information on their employees.

Olympic Airways canceled 10 flights Monday and rerouted others amid a work-to-rule action by cabin crews.

Parts of the Nazca Lines in southern Peru, the mysterious symbols and animal figures that Indians etched into the ground from 600 to 300 B.C., have been damaged by mud slides, a historian, Jose Lancha, said.

WEATHER

Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow	High	Low
Algeria	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Andorra	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Austria	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Belgium	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Bulgaria	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Croatia	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Czechia	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Denmark	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Egypt	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Finland	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
France	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Germany	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Greece	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Hungary	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Ireland	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Italy	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Japan	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Korea	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Latvia	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Lithuania	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Malta	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Netherlands	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Norway	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Poland	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Portugal	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Romania	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Slovakia	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Slovenia	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Spain	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Sweden	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Switzerland	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Turkey	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Ukraine	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
United Kingdom	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
USA	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11

North America	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow	High	Low
Alaska	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Arizona	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Arkansas	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
California	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Colorado	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Connecticut	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Delaware	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
District of Columbia	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Florida	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Georgia	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Hawaii	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Idaho	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Illinois	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Indiana	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Iowa	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Kansas	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Kentucky	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Louisiana	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Maine	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Maryland	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Massachusetts	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Michigan	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Minnesota	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Mississippi	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Missouri	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Montana	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Nebraska	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Nevada	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
New Hampshire	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
New Jersey	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
New Mexico	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
New York	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
North Carolina	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
North Dakota	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Ohio	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Oklahoma	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Oregon	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Pennsylvania	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Rhode Island	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
South Carolina	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
South Dakota	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Tennessee	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Texas	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Utah	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Vermont	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Virginia	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Washington	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
West Virginia	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Wisconsin	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11
Wyoming	18/24	14/27	10/11	18/24	14/27	10/11

Asia	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow
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THE AMERICAS

For Betty Currie, Being President's Secretary Carries a Heavy Price

By Rachel L. Swarns
New York Times Service

Betty Currie, an unflappable aide.

WASHINGTON — To visitors, she is the first face of the Oval Office, the gracious secretary who welcomes Nelson Mandela and hobnobs with wealthy fund-raisers, the smooth, cool voice on the president's telephone line.

But for five years now, Betty Currie has also been Bill Clinton's office mother, the woman who cuddles socks the cat and sweaters the White House with her infectious laugh and her bottomless dish of butterscotch.

And while Mrs. Currie clearly relishes her access to a glittering political world, friends say she took the job primarily out of loyalty to the president, who shares her Democratic ideals and stood by her side last year as she wept over the coffin of her sister and brother, who died within six months of each other.

"She believes in him," said Judy Green, a vice president at the People for the American Way Foundation and a friend of Mrs. Currie's for 20 years. "She has tremendous admiration and respect for him."

But last week, as Mrs. Currie stepped out on her front porch to face flashing cameras and shouting reporters, she found herself at the center of the gravest scandal of Mr. Clinton's presidency.

The daughter of an Illinois housekeeper, who rose to become the White

House gatekeeper with a passion for public service, Mrs. Currie, 58, has reluctantly provided evidence to prosecutors investigating a possible cover-up of a suspected relationship between the president and Monica Lewinsky.

And in the process, the quiet, church-going woman, who once described Mr. Clinton as "one of the nicest, most wonderful people" she had ever worked for, has found herself caught between her devotion to the president and her obligation to cooperate with the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

But even while talking with prosecutors, Mrs. Currie has been a valiant defender of the president, said a lawyer who knows the content of her statements.

And when Mrs. Currie arrived at work last week after testifying before a grand jury, struggling through the packs of journalists who had been laying in wait outside the White House since 1 A.M., her colleagues hugged her over and over again.

To them, Mrs. Currie is, perhaps, the most sympathetic of the many government employees drawn into the political maelstrom surrounding Mr. Starr's investigation. Unaccustomed to the spotlight, she has flourished in behind-the-scenes roles, serving as the office manager for Geraldine Ferraro's vice presidential campaign and Michael Dukakis's presidential campaign before joining Mr. Clinton's campaign staff in 1992.

Of course, as one of the president's two personal secretaries, she did sometimes mingle in glamorous circles. She played a bit role in "The War Room," a

documentary movie on the 1992 presidential campaign. And Barbara Streisand, a Clinton supporter, personally invited her to the New York premiere of her movie, "The Mirror Has Two Faces," in November 1996, a long-time friend said.

That night, Mrs. Currie accompanied Walter Kaye, the wealthy fund-raiser who referred Mrs. Lewinsky to the White House, in a limousine to Ms. Streisand's party at Tavern on the Green in Manhattan.

But friends and colleagues said Mrs. Currie spends most of her time far from public scrutiny, kidding with the president in his office, offering M&Ms to children who come to hear the president's weekly radio address or relaxing at home in Arlington, Virginia, with her husband, Robert, a retired government official and amateur pilot.

An intensely private woman who was struggling to cope with the deaths of her two siblings and with the care of her sickly mother, Mrs. Currie seemed stunned as she emerged from testifying before the grand jury last week into the crush of waiting cameras. And the look in her frightened eyes that flashed across the evening news left her friends and colleagues anguished.

Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"Betty Currie is a gem," she added, "a true gem. To see this, it's just not right."

It is a sentiment that echoes through the halls of the White House, in the Community United Methodist Church in Arlington, where she prays on Sunday, and on her tree-lined street, where she has spent the past week secluded behind the shuttered, white Venetian blinds of her two-story home in Arlington.

"We love her," said Mrs. Philip Peters, a neighbor for 13 years who broke into tears when asked to describe Mrs. Currie. "Can't you leave her alone? Can't everyone just leave her alone?"

Born in Waukegan, Illinois, Mrs. Currie was popular and active in her local high school, participating in Spanish club, the concert choir and cheerleaders.

And when she graduated in 1957, she went to work as a typist at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, beginning a career in government that would carry her from the Post Office, to the Agency for International Development, to the Peace Corps Action/Agency, and ultimately to the White House.

She had retired and was caring for her mother when her friend, Ms. Green, asked her to come to work for the Clinton campaign. Her job: To control the frantic stream of phone calls and ap-

pointments in the frenetic "war room." And she impressed everyone with her quiet aplomb.

"You had 18 people with their desks all in one room and she still managed to control the flow in and out, very quietly, always calm, always friendly," said Ricki Seidman, the former White House scheduler.

And when she was offered the post at the White House, she accepted it. "It was the opportunity of a lifetime," Ms. Green said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel sat on the corner of her desk. Mr. Clinton shook the hands of her friends and relatives. She became a reliable barometer of the President's moods, warning some visitors that it might be better to try another time.

And she soon became friend, counselor and confessor to her colleagues, warming the room with her quiet smile, and the brown eyes that peered over her dark-rimmed glasses into the hearts of her friends.

Her friends say Mrs. Currie feels drained these days. She feels sure she will survive Mr. Starr's investigation, just as she has survived the other tragedies of the past year.

"This is a strong woman and no one should think any different," said her friend, Ms. Green. "She believes in the president and she's back at work. She's going to stay."

Career Help for Friends: A Clinton Pattern?

By William C. Rempel
and David Willman
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — As investigators worked around the clock last month combing through tape-recordings of the former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, they heard plenty of salacious talk about her supposed intimacy with the president of the United States.

But what riveted career prosecutors, and prompted Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, to seek an expansion of his jurisdiction, was hearing that Vernon Jordan Jr., a presidential friend and adviser, had arranged for Ms. Lewinsky to be offered a job.

To Mr. Starr's investigators, that echoed a pattern: More than once, from the governor's mansion in Little Rock, Arkansas, to the White House, when Bill Clinton's political life has been in jeopardy, he and his most trusted aides have been accused of offering to line up jobs and financial security for those who might hold sensitive information about him.

The intended beneficiaries have included a reputed former mistress, former bodyguards and an ex-law partner of Hillary Rodham Clinton. In nearly every instance, it appears that Mr. Clinton's allies have not shied from using government resources to help accomplish their aims.

Clinton supporters have defended the job assistance as nothing more than reasonable help for friends in need — and not much different from the traditional patronage that has been part of American politics for more than 200 years.

As investigators looked at the pattern, however, it suggested the possibility of cover-up.

Was the aid designed to encourage potential witnesses to remain silent or otherwise withhold cooperation?

Such actions could amount to obstruction of justice, encouraging perjury or other serious crimes.

And if Mr. Starr should succeed in amassing persuasive evidence of such wrongdoing, the furor over Mr. Clinton's personal relationship with a former intern could be transformed into a major crisis.

Among the examples of the job pattern are the following:

• Early in Mr. Clinton's first White House term, according to one of his former bodyguards, the president dangled offers of federal jobs before two Arkansas state troopers who were threatening to go public with accounts of aiding his extramarital affairs as governor.

• Jennifer Flowers, an Arkansas cabaret singer whose account of a long-running affair triggered an uproar during Mr. Clinton's first presidential campaign, said Governor Clinton landed her a state job;

this, despite the fact that on a merit test she scored ninth out of the 11 applicants.

• In the spring of 1994, top administration officials, including the White House chief of staff, used their influence and government offices to help round up hundreds of thousands of dollars in consulting deals for Webster Hubbell, a former Justice Department official, when he became a target in the original Whitewater investigation.

Administration officials declined to comment. But Lanny Davis, who until two weeks ago was a White House special counsel, defended Mr. Clinton.

He said it was typical of the president to help friends and associates.

"This does not sound to me like a pattern of people being paid off," Mr. Davis said. "You could find numerous instances of Bill Clinton helping his friends get jobs."

A pattern of providing jobs for potentially harmful witnesses is another matter, and it is that possibility that is drawing scrutiny from a federal grand jury as it examines the Lewinsky matter for evidence of obstruction of justice. Did Ms. Lewinsky receive a job offer in tacit exchange for silence? And if so, was it a component of a calculated scheme of witness tampering?

"These are people Bill Clinton is worried about, and he's trying to keep them happy," said a former official of the Clinton White House.

Away From Politics

Authorities in Northern California ordered 500 families from their homes around Clear Lake, north of San Francisco, which was creeping higher after major storms struck the area. At least nine deaths have been blamed on the weeklong series of storms. (AP)

A Miami Air International airplane had just landed when one of its wheels went off the pavement and got stuck in the mud. Airport workers had to evacuate 117 passengers. (AP)

Four of every 10 HIV-infected people surveyed at two New England hospitals had failed to tell sex partners about their condition, and nearly two-thirds did not always use a condom, researchers said. The survey subjects were mostly poor, and many used illegal drugs and lacked high school educations, but the researchers said in Archives of Internal Medicine that they believed withholding of such information was widespread. (AP)

Texas-Sized Fight Over a Lawyers' Bill

Governor Seeks to Block \$2.3 Billion in Legal Fees for Tobacco Lawsuit

By Sam Howe Verhovek
New York Times Service

HOUSTON — At first blush, it sounds like a standard contingency-fee agreement — even a generous one from the client's point of view, by trial lawyers' standards.

The lawyers who took the case put up the initial costs, agreed not to take a penny if the client did not collect and asked for only 15 percent if there was a settlement.

But when the client is the state of Texas, and the state's settlement with the tobacco industry is \$15.3 billion, the result is not a cheerful payment of the lawyers' bill, which comes to \$2.3 billion (plus expenses, some lawyers argue). It is a Texas-sized war.

Calling the proposed fees "outrageous," Governor George Bush has gone to federal court to block the payment to the roughly 150 lawyers who helped Texas in the tobacco lawsuit.

But the state's attorney general, Dan Morales, the chief architect of the settlement, arguing that Mr. Bush's move could undermine the accord, accused him of having "chosen to wrap himself in a tobacco leaf" and said the governor was pandering for campaign contributions from the tobacco industry in a future run for the White House.

The fight in Texas mirrors one in Florida, where some lawyers are trying to collect as much as 25 percent of that state's \$11.3 billion settlement with the tobacco industry for health-related dam-

age caused by smoking. That battle already has the added twist of lawyers fighting among themselves over the share of any proceeds. But, for now, a state judge has blocked some of the lawyers' attempts to collect fees by placing liens on the tobacco companies' payments to the state.

The Florida judge, Harold Cohen of Circuit Court in West Palm Beach, ruled late last year that the lawyers may well be entitled to hundreds of millions of dollars for their work. However, in a ruling that basically tore up the stipulated 25 percent, Judge Cohen wrote that the amount of fees sought, \$2.87 billion, "simply shocks the conscience of the court" and "is per se unreasonable."

The proposed fees in Texas and Florida appear to be the two largest payments to lawyers in the history of American litigation.

But, as gargantuan as the fight over them may seem now, it may well be dwarfed by the one that will occur if Congress approves the proposed \$368.5 billion national settlement with the tobacco industry, which in most respects would supersede the Texas and Florida agreements as well as those expected in the more than three dozen other states that have legal action pending against the tobacco companies.

Even without such a national deal in hand, several members of Congress have proposed legislation that would limit the amounts paid to the hundreds of private lawyers who helped negotiate that agreement, which was announced last

spring but has yet to be acted on. One bill proposed in the House of Representatives would set the fees to be awarded at no more than \$150 an hour plus expenses; a Senate bill would put the amount at \$250 an hour.

In Texas, the legal tussle has enough subtexts to fill an entire semester's course in the basic politics of America's second most populous state, after California.

As a group, trial lawyers here have long been major contributors to the Democratic Party and have fought bitterly with Mr. Bush, a Republican, over legislation that would limit damage awards in civil trials and limit what Mr. Bush calls "frivolous lawsuits."

The governor is running for re-election this autumn, and he would appear to have little to lose politically by arguing to Texans that a handful of trial lawyers do not deserve \$2.3 billion in fees. In his filing to Judge David Folsom of Federal District Court in Texarkana, Mr. Bush said he did not want to reduce the overall size of the settlement; he simply wanted more of the money to go to health-care programs and less to lawyers.

Nonetheless, Mr. Bush's strategy is not without risk. Mr. Morales said the action threatened to undermine the settlement, which has a provision stating that it can be terminated if the courts or lawmakers change it in any "material respect." The attorney general said Mr. Bush was doing the bidding of the tobacco companies by filing the equivalent of a legal bombshell that could destroy the agreement.

POLITICAL NOTES

Faster Naturalization

WASHINGTON — The administration is preparing to revamp the naturalization process, using computers to reduce the chances of granting U.S. citizenship to criminals and other ineligible applicants.

The modernization plan builds on a long-overdue automation drive the Immigration and Naturalization Service has initiated, according to agency officials familiar with the proposal. It would require electronic fingerprint checks at several points in the naturalization process, tighten control over key data to prevent fraud, use bar codes and the Internet to speed up the system and eventually allow an applicant to be sworn in as a U.S. citizen immediately after an interview.

The aim is to close loopholes in the system while improving "customer service" and reducing waiting times to six months or less, officials said. At present, about 1.7 million immigrants are in line to become U.S. citizens, and waiting times exceed two years in some cities. (WP)

Republicans vs. Census

WASHINGTON — Republicans in Congress are preparing to renew their fight to prevent the Census Bureau from using a new method to count the United States' population in 2000.

House Republicans, once content with threats to withhold money from the Census Bureau or to challenge the constitutionality

of the new method, are now drawing up plans to oversee the census more tightly than any Congress in memory.

"We must have a huge say in the planning, preparation and implementation of the 2000 census," said Representative Daniel Miller, Republican of Florida, who heads a House subcommittee that oversees the Census Bureau.

The Republicans are fighting the proposed statistical sampling methodology for the 2000 census. Supporters of the method say they suspect that Republican opposition stems from a fear that counting more minorities, who tend to vote Democratic, would result in a redrawing of congressional district lines that would benefit Democrats.

Last week, House leaders granted Mr. Miller's subcommittee a \$1.1 million budget to oversee preparations for the next census.

The money, which comes from a special account established by House Republican leaders for investigations, is about 10 times more than what was allocated to the House subcommittee that oversaw preparations for the 1990 census. House leaders have yet to say precisely how they will supervise the census. (NIT)

Quote/Unquote

Stanley Greenberg, Democratic pollster, on President Bill Clinton's climb in opinion polls despite the Lewinsky case: "That he would gain popularity is not what many smart observers thought would happen. We are all running to catch up to reality." (WP)

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ASIA/PACIFIC

China Arrests Activists Tied To Exile Who Planned Party

BEIJING — The police seized a prominent dissident, Wang Donghai, on Monday in a crackdown linked to the detention of a U.S.-based activist who was hoping to set up an opposition party in China, his sister and a human-rights group said.

Mr. Wang was the fourth dissident to be taken into police custody since the exiled activist Wang Bingzhang was detained Friday in central Anhui Province after entering the country under an alias, the Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said.

The crackdown appeared to single out activists who had contact with Wang Bingzhang, the center said.

He was seized after a nationwide manhunt, just days before the planned start-up of a group to be called the Justice Party, the center said.

Another dissident, Wang Tinglin, 43, a mathematics teacher, was detained in Anhui Province along with Wang Bingzhang. Also, a longtime dissident, Yang Qinheng, 44, was taken from his home Monday by the police in Shanghai, family members said.

Zhang Rujuan, a dissident missing since Sunday, has also been taken into police custody, his wife quoted the police as saying.

Wang Bingzhang has been an irritant for Beijing for the last 15 years, publishing anti-Communist literature overseas that circulated underground in China. The head of the Hong Kong human-rights center, Lu Sijing, said the authorities were likely to deal with him sternly as a warning to others.

Mr. Wang has been granted political asylum in the United States, giving him residency rights.

"He is in a very bad situation," Mr. Lu said in Hong Kong. "He is not an American citizen, so the American government cannot protect him."

A U.S. Embassy spokesman, William Palmer, said the embassy and the consulate general in Shanghai were "actively pursuing this issue with authorities in Beijing and Anhui Province with a view to confirming this person's status and current condition."

Ex-Khmer Rebel Won't Seek Office

PHNOM PENH — Ieng Sary, the highest ranking Khmer Rouge rebel to surrender to the government, said Monday that he would not participate in the general election scheduled for July.

The former guerrilla leader made the vow during his second visit to the capital since a coup in July when Second Prime Minister Hun Sen ousted First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh to take undisputed control. Earlier Monday, he met with Mr. Hun Sen.

Mr. Ieng Sary's falling out with the hard-core leadership of Khmer Rouge in July 1996 led to the defection of about 10,000 guerrillas, effectively marginalizing the Khmer Rouge as a military force. After his defection, Mr. Ieng Sary formed the Democratic National United Movement.



Lal Krishna Advani addressing a party rally Monday in New Delhi.

India Nationalists Pledge Not to Hinder Investors

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW DELHI — The Indian nationalists who are leading in opinion polls for the coming parliamentary elections want to limit foreign influence in the country, but the party's president reassured investors Monday that he wanted to see further reforms in the economy.

Responding to criticism that the Bharatiya Janata Party opposes foreign investors, its president, Lal Krishna Advani, said at the Foreign Correspondents Club here that the party would not hinder foreign companies if it formed a government.

"The BJP will not roll back the economic reforms instituted," he said, adding that if anything, the process would be "further speeded up."

Foreign companies seeking to make investments in India, he said, "will not be hindered, just as they will not be favored, as was often the case so far."

Mr. Advani refused to provide details about the measures his party favored, such as which state enterprises would be targeted first for privatization or how more investment would be lured.

A series of opinion polls has indicated that Mr. Advani's Hindu nationalist party will win the most parliamentary seats in the elections that will begin Monday and continue into early March, but not enough seats to govern without partners.

In its manifesto released last week, the party said the economic reforms begun in this once-socialist country by the Congress (I) Party in 1991 had "further impoverished the majority" of Indians and opened domestic industries to competition for which they were not prepared.

India needs to rely on its own capital and entrepreneurs to grow, the manifesto said, and domestic industries should have at least seven years of protection from foreign competition. But foreign investors were welcome to help India develop its infrastructure, it added.

Mr. Advani said the party would judge foreign-investment proposals on the basis of their value to the national economy but added that it opposed foreign ownership of mass media.

Mr. Advani indicated that the basic direction of reforms would not be altered — or at least not immediately. "A government is always a government in continuity," he said. "Even when radical changes are necessary, we would have to move cautiously."

He added, "Investments that have been made already are absolutely secure."

He said that, while there is a role for foreign capital in India, "its size and scope must not be overestimated" and that his party rejected the idea that foreign investment "is our only hope."

Taipei Mayor Is Waiting in the Wings

Star of the Opposition Sees a Parallel With Kim of South Korea

By Keith B. Richburg
Washington Post Service

TAIPEI — Ask Mayor Chen Shui-bian of Taipei about the opposition's chances of winning control of Taiwan's legislature this year and then seizing the presidency in 2000, and he immediately brings up the Labor Party of Britain and Kim Dae Jung of South Korea, the one-time dissident who is to assume the presidency in Seoul this month.

The Labor Party "had to wait 18 years to return to power," Mr. Chen said in the expansive reception room of Taipei City Hall. "And Kim Dae Jung in South Korea waited 40 years. So even the impossible can become possible."

As for the prospects of his Democratic Progressive Party, best known for its stance favoring Taiwan's independence from the Chinese mainland — Mr. Chen, 46, exuded casual confidence.

"I think the DPP has the same potential to become the ruling party," he said, smiling. "I have great confidence the DPP can win the presidency in the year 2000."

Many others in Taiwan are taking that prediction seriously, particularly after local elections in November in which opposition candidates routed the governing Kuomintang. And political analysts say the media-savvy, blunt-talking mayor is the Democratic Progressive Party's best hope for the presidency.

Mr. Chen's first term as mayor has gained him widespread popularity, with his high-profile campaigns against youth gangs and prostitution, his efforts to clean up the city and his success in unsmothering Taipei's notorious traffic jams.

"In Taiwan politics right now, he is probably one of the most popular politicians," said Joseph Wu, a political scientist at the National Cheng Kung University's Institute of International Relations. "Chen Shui-bian seems to be doing a lot for the city of Taipei."

Like Mr. Kim, whose name he often evokes, Mr. Chen — the son of a poor plantation family who became a successful lawyer — has paid a heavy price for his opposition to the Kuomintang. During a 1985 campaign rally, a truck, widely believed to have been driven by Nationalist thugs, plowed through a crowd and ran over Mr. Chen's wife, then backed up and ran over her again. His wife, Wu Shu-chen, was paralyzed; nearly 13 years later, Mr. Chen still returns home every evening to give her a therapeutic massage. Three months after that incident, Mr. Chen himself was arrested and jailed on charges of sedition.

To many, it might seem poetic justice for Mr. Chen to emerge as the next president, ending the Nationalists' five-decade monopoly on power, which began in 1949 when Chiang Kai-shek fled here with the remnants of his defeated Nationalist army after the Communists' takeover of China. Martial law here was lifted only in 1987, as Taiwan began its "quiet revolution" to full democracy, and in 1996, Lee Teng-hui became the island's first popularly elected president.

Mr. Lee is widely expected to step down at the end of his term, in two years, and to throw his support behind Vice President Lien Chan.

But Mr. Lien's popularity dwindled after a disastrous run as prime minister in which he was blamed, among other things, for failing to stem a spiraling crime rate. He is likely to be challenged for the nomination by a popular provincial governor, James Soong, setting up a split within the Kuomintang. That, analysts say, could clear the way for Mr.

Chen to move from city hall to the Presidential Palace.

Mr. Chen is coy about his plans, saying he is concentrating on being re-elected mayor this year and deciding whether to run for his party's chairmanship this spring.

"The presidential election will take place two years from now," he said. "Taiwan is a fast-changing society. Everything will change, and nobody can predict what will happen."

"So far, what I'm concerned about is how to play my role well as mayor," added Mr. Chen, who also served in the legislature and was behind some of the wildest brawls in that raucous chamber. "The idea of running for the presidency has never come to my mind."

His party's long-standing pro-independence stance has made it anathema to the leadership in Beijing, which has set its sights on reunifying Taiwan with the mainland following the successful return of Hong Kong to Chinese control last year. China considers Taiwan a renegade province.

But Mr. Chen lately has been at the forefront of modifying his party's pro-independence line to a more pragmatic one. While still proclaiming that Taiwan is not a part of the People's Republic of China, he also says that if his party takes power, any declaration of Taiwan's independence would come only after a nationwide referendum on the issue — and the referendum might not be held right away.

BRIEFLY

New Okinawa Mayor Defers on Heliport

TOKYO — A new Okinawa mayor or backtracked Monday on building an offshore heliport to reduce the U.S. military presence on the island, reportedly saying he would defer to the governor of Okinawa, who opposes the plan.

"At present, I am not in a position to accept the heliport construction," said Taisei Kishimoto, who was elected mayor Sunday of Nago, the northern town near the proposed heliport site, according to the Kyodo news agency. He added, "As long as Governor Ota says 'no,' I cannot accept the building of the marine base."

Mr. Kishimoto, a former deputy mayor backed by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, woo by a slim margin after stressing that building the heliport would invigorate the depressed local economy.

The election came two days after Governor Masahide Ota said that he would not support government efforts to build the floating platform off Nago. Mr. Ota noted that 54 percent of Nago voters rejected the plan in a nonbinding referendum in December. (AP)

Thai Farmers March For Additional Aid

BANGKOK — About 5,000 farmers began marching Monday from impoverished northeastern provinces toward Bangkok to demand more government aid, police officials said.

The farmers, led by the Assembly of Small-Scale Northeastern Farmers, were moving from the Si Kiu district of Nakorn Ratchasima Province, 180 kilometers (110 miles) from Bangkok.

The farmers were unhappy that Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai did not meet with them during a weekend visit to the northeast. (Reuters)

Australia Body Sets Republic Deadline

CANBERRA — A constitutional convention voted Monday to ensure that any change to make Australia a republic takes place by Jan. 1, 2001.

the centenary of its federation.

The convention also left open the option of allowing Australia to become a republic in time for the opening of the Summer Olympics in Sydney in late September 2000 and stated that the head of state in a republic would be called president rather than governor-general.

The resolution on the timing of the republic calls for a referendum next year. The constitutional convention is discussing the issue of Australia as a republic. Half of the 152 delegates were elected by Australians in a voluntary mail ballot and the other half were appointed by Prime Minister John Howard's government. (AP)

4 North Koreans Defect to Seoul

SEOUL — Four North Koreans working in a former Soviet republic defected to South Korea and arrived in Seoul Monday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The ministry declined to identify the four men or name the country from which they defected. The state-run Yonhap news agency reported they had been working in construction and logging in the Commonwealth of Independent States, the grouping of former Soviet republics.

About 200 North Koreans have fled to the South in the last two years, complaining of severe food shortages and other hardships in the reclusive North. (AP)

Twins, 14, Arrested In Japan Stabbing

TOKYO — Fourteen-year-old twin brothers were arrested Monday, the police said, in the broad-daylight stabbing of a woman, the latest in a string of attacks by Japanese schoolboys fascinated with knives.

The youths stabbed the 58-year-old housewife in the hip with a knife Monday in Sakaiminato City, 660 kilometers (410 miles) west of Tokyo, said a police official in Tottori Prefecture, speaking on condition he not be identified. The woman survived the attack, he added.

The attacks are part of a troubling surge in juvenile crime in Japan. A 13-year-old boy stabbed a teacher to death last month. (AP)

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EUROPE

False Steps Brought Armenian Leader's Fall

Change Shows Military Is Firmly in Charge

By Steve Levine
New York Times Service

YEREVAN, Armenia — Even before Levon Ter-Petrosian resigned as president last week, Armenia's top military officials had become the nation's main political power brokers, local officials and Western diplomats say.

Sixteen months ago they intervened to seal Mr. Ter-Petrosian's re-election, when their troops crushed protests that jeopardized his 1996 victory in a vote tainted by fraud. But some of those same officials pressed Mr. Ter-Petrosian to step down after what diplomats and others characterized as his political mistakes caused them to lose confidence in him.

"The well-known power bodies demanded his resignation," Mr. Ter-Petrosian, 52, said in a short statement announcing his resignation.

Now, Western diplomats say, the security forces have shifted their support to Prime Minister Robert Kocharyan, 43, who has become acting president.

While he has said that he is unlikely to compete in new presidential elections, on March 16, some local political analysts and diplomats said he was nonetheless a favorite and predicted that military officials would persuade him to run.

The ascendancy of Armenia's military takes place in a region where military force has tipped the balance of power for most of the six years since the Soviet Union collapsed and as Armenia begins to emerge from a decade-long crisis caused by its conflict with neighboring Azerbaijan.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian gained popularity with his stand against the repression of Armenians living in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is in-

side Azerbaijan's borders but populated largely by Armenians. His support soared in 1993, when Armenian-backed fighters swept out of the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave and captured one-fifth of Azerbaijan's territory. Local politicians and Western diplomats trace his demise now to two political missteps.

The first came in the September 1996 election, when members of his presidential security team allegedly padded the vote, giving him slightly more than the 50 percent needed to avert a runoff against Vazgen Manukian.

When protests followed, two of Mr. Ter-Petrosian's aides — Interior Minister Vano Siradegyan and Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkissian — sent troops to crush them. In a television broadcast, the two officials and other military figures joined Mr. Ter-Petrosian in justifying the crackdown. "At that point, Ter-Petrosian's independent political legitimacy was seriously eroded," a Western diplomat said.

His second mistake, political analysts said, was saying in a speech in September that Nagorno-Karabakh could retain effective independence but would technically have to remain part of Azerbaijan. A storm of protest resulted, primarily from his military allies, and Mr. Ter-Petrosian became more isolated.

Ban on Opposition Party Ends

The Justice Ministry removed a ban on Armenia's main opposition party Monday, clearing the way for it to take part in the presidential election, Reuters reported. The nationalist Dashnak party was banned in 1994 by Mr. Ter-Petrosian, who accused it of links with drug trafficking and terrorism. It denied the charges.

Separatists Claim Corsican Slaying

AJACCIO, Corsica — Corsican separatists claimed responsibility Monday for the death of the top official on the French island, calling the murder "perfectly thought out and highly political."

An unsigned communiqué, which the police considered genuine because it included the murder weapon's serial number, said the prefect Claude Erignac was gunned down Friday because his "colonial policy" had harmed Corsican agriculture and forestry.

The communiqué surfaced as the police detained about a dozen nationalists. (Reuters)

Runoff for Cyprus

NICOSIA — A runoff has been set in Cyprus's presidential election after no candidate won a majority.

The runoff, between former Foreign Minister George Iacovou and President Glavkos Klerides, was scheduled for next Sunday. Mr. Iacovou won 40.6 percent of the vote, edging Mr. Klerides, who got 40.1 percent.

The leader of the Socialist Party, Vassos Lyssarides, emerged as the likely power-broker with 10.6 percent of the vote. He has avoided indicating whom he will support in the second round. (Reuters)

Poles Fight Visa Rule

WARSAW — Polish traders blocked a border crossing into Belarus on Monday to protest new visa rules that have kept their customers away.

About 200 traders from the eastern city of Bialystok parked their cars at the crossing in Kuznica Bialostocka,



Magistrates and lawyers marching in Ajaccio on Monday in memory of their slain prefect, Claude Erignac.

stopping all traffic into Belarus. The visa rules tightened Dec. 27 because of concern from Western Europe that Poland was becoming a way station for illegal immigrants from the East.

Under the new rules, visitors from Belarus and Russia are required to present a document showing that food and lodging for the entire stay have been paid for, or an invitation from

someone in Poland. However, most visitors cannot afford accommodations, and that has led to a decrease in trade. (AP)

5 Albanians Drown

BRINDISI, Italy — Five Albanian refugees were drowned and at least two more were missing Monday after their

boat sank in rough seas off southern Italy, officials said. Coast Guardsmen said they had received a distress signal in the middle of the night and had rescued 14 people clinging to debris from a vessel that had sunk near Brindisi.

The boat had left the Albanian port of Vlore on Sunday when weather appeared calm enough to make the five-hour trip across the Adriatic. (Reuters)

Northern Ireland Talks Yield Outlines of a New Political Architecture

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

BELFAST — For the first time since the current peace effort began five years ago, the shape of a new political structure for Northern Ireland has begun to emerge clearly in formal talks between leaders of the Protestant majority and the Roman Catholic minority.

The structure under discussion would give the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republic increased influence in the affairs of the British province. But it would also guarantee that no

changes would be made without the approval of the province's Protestant majority, most of whom want to remain British.

The formal peace talks began 20 months ago in an effort to end sectarian violence that has killed more than 3,200 people since 1969.

Until recent weeks the talks had foundered in political arguing and posturing. Then, to the relief of the British and Irish governments, which are sponsoring the talks, the leaders of the Protestant and Catholic communities began serious discussion of new political structures, participants said.

While the leaders continued to joust with one

another in public, inside the negotiating room they began for the first time to explore particulars of three new political institutions:

• A regional legislature, probably with 90 members. The British government has ruled the province directly since 1972, when sectarian violence made it impossible for the Protestant-controlled regional Assembly to govern.

• A ministerial council with members from Northern Ireland, Britain and the Irish Republic to deal with trans-border issues like tourism and agriculture.

• An intergovernmental body of Irish Repub-

lic and British officials to replace the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1985, which gave Dublin a consulting role in northern affairs for the first time.

The politicians have begun working on an agreement on the new structure, which would be put to a referendum in the North and the Irish Republic.

"We are discussing substantive issues," said Bronagh Hinds, who is taking part in the talks as a member of the Women's Coalition, a mix of Protestants and Catholics. "People are trying to find a comfortable way into those issues. People are beginning to accommodate others' agendas."

George Mitchell, the former U.S. senator who has been chairman of the talks since they began in June 1996, said in an interview, "The real story is that slowly but steadily we've been inching forward toward what I believe will be an historic resolution of the conflict in Northern Ireland."

The Irish prime minister, Bertie Ahern, said that cooperation between his government and the British was now "excellent," a sign that the peace issues that have often divided London and Dublin had been resolved in discussions with Mo Mowlam, the British Northern Ireland secretary. She stood by his side in Dublin, smiling in approval.

the Wings of South Korea

The party's long-standing pro-independence stance has made it a leading force in reunifying Taiwan with the mainland following the success of Hong Kong to Chinese control last year. China considers Taiwan a province.

Mr. Chen lately has been in the forefront of modifying his party's position on reunifying Taiwan.

While still proclaiming that Taiwan is not a part of the People's Republic of China, he also says that the party takes power, any declaration of Taiwan's independence would be held right away.

FLY

The centenary of the federation.

The convention also left open the option of allowing Australia to become a republic in time for the opening of the Summer Olympics in Sydney in late September 2000 and that the head of state in a republic would be called president rather than governor-general.

The resolution on the timing of the public vote for a referendum was passed. The constitutional convention is discussing the issue of Australia as a republic. Half of the 152 delegates were elected by Australians in a voluntary mail ballot, and the other half were appointed by Prime Minister John Howard's government. (AP)

North Koreans Defect to Seoul

SEOUL — Four North Koreans working in a former Soviet republic defected to South Korea and arrived in Seoul Monday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The ministry declined to identify the four, who were believed to have been working in a company in Yonhap, a company registered in the United States. The company was also registered in the Communist North Korean government. About 100 North Koreans have defected to South Korea since 1994, according to the ministry. The defectors are being given medical and other assistance in the relief camp.

Prisoners 11 Arrested In Japan Stabbing

TOKYO — Fourteen Japanese and 11 foreigners were arrested Monday in connection with a stabbing in a Japanese school. The victims were two Japanese students and a foreigner. The suspects are 11 Japanese and three foreigners. The suspects are being held in custody. The victims are being treated in a hospital. The police are investigating the case.

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INTERNATIONAL

Arab League Calls for Compromise on UN-Iraq Standoff

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

CAIRO — The head of the Arab League called for compromise from all sides Monday on a plan that would seek to resolve the standoff between Iraq and the United Nations without resort to force.

The appeal by Esmat Abdel Meguid, secretary-general of the 21-member organization, marked a new diplomatic challenge to American and British insistence that Iraq alone make the concessions necessary to put an end to a dispute over access to UN inspectors to all of Iraq's suspected weapons sites.

The United States and Britain have insisted that such access be granted to inspectors from the UN special commission that Iraq has accused of being unjust. But Mr. Abdel Meguid, who met with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq in Baghdad last week, said the league was working with France and Russia toward an alternative plan to reach the same end by different means.

"We are determined to find a peaceful

solution," Mr. Abdel Meguid said at a news conference at the Arab League headquarters here Monday. "I know that it is difficult, but it is not impossible."

Under the alternative sketched out by Mr. Abdel Meguid on Monday, the inspectors from the UN special commission would be allowed full access to 60 of 68 Iraqi sites that lie at the heart of the current dispute. But for the eight presidential sites that Iraq has been most emphatic in declaring off limits, searches would be carried out by a new team of inspectors whose chairman would be appointed by the UN secretary-general.

Such a compromise is not likely to be embraced by either the United States or Britain, which have insisted that Iraq be the one to step back from what they have said could be the brink of a sustained military campaign. But it may well be seen as credible by Arab and other countries around the world who are warning Washington and London against moving too quickly to punish Iraqi intransigence.

To preempt charges that the Arab

League plan bent too far to address Iraqi complaints, Mr. Abdel Meguid took pains to emphasize that Richard Butler, the Australian who heads the UN special commission, would serve as vice-chairman of the proposed new inspection team.

A day after Saudi Arabia effectively denied the United States the use of American warplanes based in the kingdom in any military strike, the discussion of the Arab League plan came amid new expressions of Arab caution.

In London, King Hussein of Jordan said after a meeting with Prime Minister Tony Blair: "I don't think I would support action that would affect the people of Iraq. The people have suffered enough."

President Zine Abidine ben Ali of Tunisia warned against a situation in which "the logic of war gets the upper hand on the logic of peace." And in Cairo, Mr. Abdel Meguid declared: "The use of force will never, never, and I repeat, never solve the problem."

He added: "If the United States neglects this proposal, it is their responsibility."

Also on Monday, Iraq dispatched Foreign Minister Mohammed Said Sahhaf to rally Arab leaders against possible American military action. He was scheduled to arrive in Damascus on Monday night and to travel on later in the week to Cairo and perhaps to Beirut.

Among the Gulf War allies who fought to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in 1991, only Syria among Arab nations has flatly declared that a new attack on Iraq now would be unwarranted.

But with the exception of Kuwait, no Arab nation has endorsed the American threats of military action, despite the assurances that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said she had received on her recent visit to the Middle East.

And while Mrs. Albright portrayed her trip as a success, the messages from top Arab officials have remained highly cautious, heavy with suggestions that the renewed use of force against Iraq could set off more turmoil in a volatile region.

After meeting Sunday with King Hassan of Morocco, Foreign Minister Amr

Moussa of Egypt said: "As part of the ongoing consultations between Arab countries, Egypt and Morocco are against military strikes on Iraq."

The resistance to the U.S. strategy reflects the sentiments being voiced among many ordinary Arabs, and it could still complicate American decision-making on the threatened strikes.

The message was expressed in less diplomatic language last week by the state-owned Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram.

"The American position toward Iraq cannot be described as anything but coercive, aggressive, unwise and uncaring about the lives of Iraqis, who are unnecessarily subjected to sanctions and humiliation," the newspaper said in an editorial.

Throughout the region, diplomats and other analysts say a new round of air strikes against Iraq could have a broadly negative political impact by reinforcing a view that the United States has little regard for Arab lives.

BRIEFLY

Economic Accord For Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Ivory Coast signed a deal with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on Monday, committing itself to three more years of far-reaching economic reforms and opening the way for a once-and-for-all solution to its external debt crisis.

The agreement, which will be referred to the executive boards of the IMF and the World Bank for final approval in the next few weeks, was signed at a ceremony here by Prime Minister Daniel Krahlan Duncan and the IMF chief negotiator, Amor Tahar.

Once approved, the agreement on a new package of economic reforms will lead to the release of a new IMF loan said to be worth \$385 million over the next three years.

It will also pave the way for Ivory Coast to benefit from new credits from the World Bank and substantial relief on its \$17 billion external debt. (AP)

Jackson Urging Leadership on Moi

NAIROBI — The Reverend Jesse Jackson, the U.S. envoy for democracy in Africa, urged President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya on Monday to show greater "leadership" in dealing with ethnic clashes that have killed more than 100 people.

Mr. Jackson told a news conference that he had appealed to Mr. Moi to visit the Rift Valley, adding that a joint visit with the opposition leader Mwai Kibaki would provide a useful symbol of ethnic and political unity.

More than 100 people have been killed since Jan. 11 in raids and revenge attacks between ethnic Kalenjin and Kikuyu in Nakuru and Laikipia districts of the Rift Valley.

"The president's presence, personal presence and touch will show a humane expression of care," Mr. Jackson said. (Reuters)

Rebels Blow Up Colombia Pipeline

BOGOTA — Leftist rebels dynamited the Cano Limon pipeline in Colombia for the seventh time this year, paralyzing all pumping operations and spilling at least 15,000 barrels of crude, the state oil company Ecopetrol said Monday.

The attack took place near the town of Villanueva in Norte de Santander Province, west of the Cano Limon field operated by the American multinational Occidental Petroleum Corp.

The pipeline was blown up Sunday morning but because of the bad weather engineers cannot get in to begin repairs," an Ecopetrol spokesman said, adding that the spill had caused an ecological disaster.

The blast was linked to the National Liberation Army, a Cuban-inspired force set up in the mid-1960s that focuses on Colombia's oil infrastructure. (Reuters)

Which Course on Iraq?

While Clinton Hones a Limited Agenda, Republicans Clamor for Saddam's Fall

By R.W. Apple Jr.
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — History is peering over President Bill Clinton's shoulder as he ponders what to do about President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The experiences of the United States in the last half-century — in Vietnam, the Gulf War and the limited strikes against Baghdad since, and in diplomatic activities and clandestine operations, too — have left a cautionary residue: Power, even commanding power, does not always guarantee success.

That lesson, in turn, has made not only the American public but also the generals in the Pentagon reluctant to support

chemical and biological weapons that Mr. Saddam has built up, let alone getting rid of him. The location of all the weapons is not known, and making new ones would not be that difficult, given the survival of the scientists involved and of supplies from abroad. The Iraqis have proved ingenious at sneaking war matériel through the embargo.

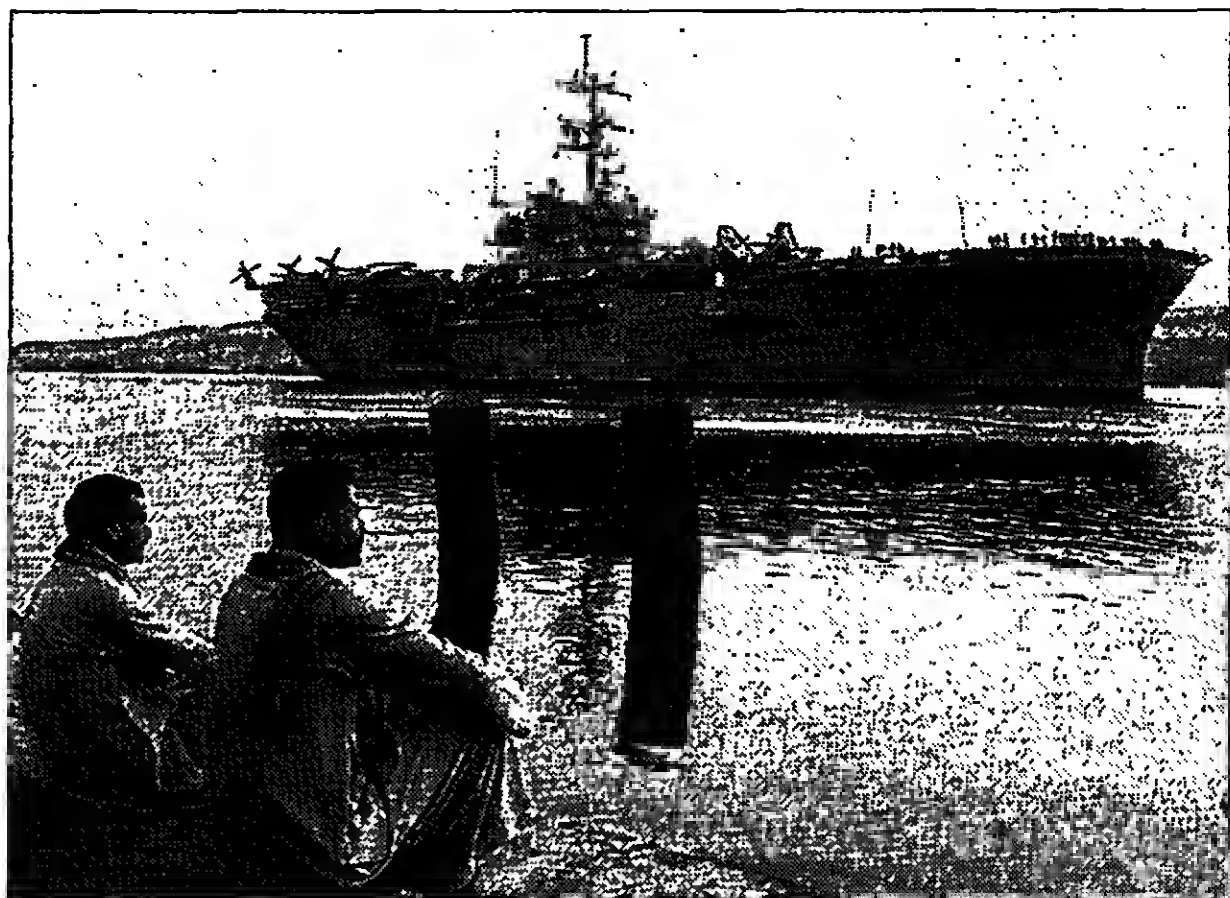
Nor could a bombing campaign be mounted without substantial political costs, in the view of the man who ran the air operations in the Gulf War, General Charles Horner, retired. An all-out air attack, he said last week, could well "turn our friends, especially in the Arab world, against us."

Mr. Clinton, Mr. Cohen and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright are well aware of the problems. That is one reason that they have set the rhetorical bar so low in recent statements, suggesting that the United States seeks only to "contain" Mr. Saddam, not drive him from power, and to force him to comply with UN resolutions by allowing full weapons inspections. But is even that limited goal attainable?

In World War II, elaborate claims were made for strategic bombing and later called into question. In Vietnam, the United States claimed to have destroyed the Paul Doumer bridge in North Vietnam more than a dozen times, but it survived. In the Gulf War, "smart" bombs and cruise missiles did better in hitting designated targets, but postwar analysis showed that they did not score the miraculous successes first claimed.

"In reality," a senior State Department official said, "I think the best we can do is reduce his stock of weapons, at least for a while, and give him some second thoughts about using them against any of his neighbors."

Faced with so many limitations, some Republicans, including such important figures as Senator John McCain of Arizona, have begun to demand that the administration set a more ambitious agenda for dealing with Mr. Saddam, including some plan for an "endgame" — meaning some plan to ensure either that Mr. Saddam is killed or banished from Iraq or that he is permanently



The U.S. helicopter carrier Guam passing through the Suez Canal on Monday on its way to join Gulf forces.

denied the ability to replenish his stocks of murderous chemical and biological weapons.

Since few believe that even a combination of bombing, subsequent inspections and international vigilance can keep Mr. Saddam from making weapons whose ingredients and manufacturing "plants" can be fitted easily into an average-sized room, the clamor for killing or organizing the overthrow of the Iraqi leader is growing ever stronger.

The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, decided what he depicted as Mr. Clinton's plan not to oust Mr. Saddam in some manner but simply to "smite him a little." Air attacks would make it harder than ever to send in weapons inspectors, Mr. Lott said, "so what have you achieved?"

As long as Mr. Saddam "remains in power," Richard Perle, a former as-

sistant secretary of state, wrote in Sunday's Washington Post, "it is idle to believe that this threat can be contained." He added: "The United States — alone if necessary, with our friends if possible — should encourage, recognize, help finance, arm and protect with air power a new provisional government broadly representative of all the people of Iraq."

That might have been easier, of course, had events taken a different course at the end of the Gulf War in 1991. At that time, General H. Norman Schwarzkopf agreed to permit flights by Iraqi helicopters, which Mr. Saddam then used to put down nascent rebellions in the northern and southern regions of his country.

But as it is, only a sliver of territory in the north harbors significant organized opposition to the government. Elsewhere, the Iraqi National Congress, an

opposition umbrella group, is small and weak, which leads Mr. Perle and others to suggest that the United States should supply it with direct military aid, including comprehensive air cover.

Mr. Clinton must consider first whether such a program has any reasonable prospect of success, which many intelligence analysts doubt. Then he must consider whether the risk is worth the uproar that would certainly follow from many American allies, especially in the Arab world, and perhaps at home.

Surely, it would have less support than the idea of a straightforward bombing campaign, and that lacks backing not only among Republicans in Congress but also abroad. In Europe, only the British have provided military forces to the effort to force Mr. Saddam to back down. In the Arab world, where the Gulf War was widely supported, public backing for the United States is now sparse.

Yeltsin, in Rome, Slips Up In Remarks About Iraq

Reuters

ROME — Boris Yeltsin, looking lively during his first foreign trip this year, caused confusion by prematurely announcing progress in talks with Iraq as he arrived for a three-day state visit to Italy on Monday.

The Russian president, who has a record of performing erratically on foreign trips, said that the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, was heading to Iraq to coordinate diplomatic efforts to resolve a crisis over weapons inspections.

"We spoke with Annan, the United Nations secretary-general, and he said he will coordinate all these matters and he said he would fly to Iraq," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters.

Mr. Annan, in New York, promptly denied any immediate plans to visit Baghdad. Iraq is being threatened with U.S. air strikes for refusing to grant full access to UN arms inspectors.

Russia has been leading diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis and is anxious to be seen making progress to reduce the possibility of U.S. military action.

With his wife, Naina, on his arm, Mr. Yeltsin looked vigorous as he walked down the steps of his plane.

As he headed to central Rome, his limousine was flanked by police motorcycles and two ambulances with flashing blue lights.

Italian newspapers said the ambulances would accompany Mr. Yeltsin, who turned 67 earlier this month, throughout his visit, and that operating theaters and blood facilities were on standby around the clock.

Mr. Yeltsin underwent multiple heart bypass surgery in 1996, and his health has frequently given cause for concern. In December, he spent two weeks at a sanatorium near Moscow recovering from a viral infection.

But on Monday he projected the image of a reasonably healthy man, shedding his overcoat before a welcoming ceremony at the Quirinale Palace with President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro.

He also walked the length of the palace courtyard, albeit slightly stiffly, past a marching band, a regiment of soldiers and 23 equestrian guards whose armor shone in the late-afternoon light.

Mr. Yeltsin later introduced Mr. Scalfaro to his daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko, who is his adviser.

Mr. Yeltsin's trip to Rome was his first foreign visit this year and his first since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

On a visit to Sweden in December, Mr. Yeltsin raised eyebrows with a series of gaffes and breaches of protocol. Among others, he kept King Carl XVI Gustaf waiting and wrongly referred to Germany and Japan as nuclear powers.

Mr. Yeltsin told reporters at Fiumicino Airport that he and Pope John Paul II would talk about celebrations for the year 2000 when they met Tuesday.

They met once before in 1991. Asked whether he would invite the 77-year-old pontiff to Moscow, the Russian leader replied jokingly: "I've already invited him several times," adding, "I'll fulfill your requests and invite him again."

But the Kremlin has said that Mr. Yeltsin will not clear the way for a papal visit to Russia because of long-standing objections from the Russian Orthodox Church.

Mr. Yeltsin also said he was due to sign billions of dollars worth of deals, and he sounded upbeat about the effects of the transactions on the economic recovery of his country.

Italy is expected to announce a resumption of credit guarantees for large Italian projects in Russia after a six-year hiatus.

Agreement ready for signature during Mr. Yeltsin's visit include an \$850 million contract between the automakers Fiat SpA of Italy and Russia's AO Gorkovskiy Avtomobilny Zavod, for the manufacture of up to 150,000 Fiat annually in Russia.



RUSSIAN IN ROME — President Boris Yeltsin, arriving Monday for a three-day visit, was to meet with President Luigi Scalfaro and the Pope.

Turkey Denies Moving Troops Into Iraq as Buffer to Kurds

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ANKARA — The Turkish military denied on Monday reports that thousands of its troops had crossed into Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

"Not a single one of our soldiers has passed the border," said a military spokesman, Colonel Husnu Dag.

Witnesses had said that about 7,000 commandos, backed by armored vehicles together with Kurdish guides and medical teams, crossed into Iraq at the Habur border point. "They went across from here at 2 A.M.," a witness told Reuters.

A security source said the soldiers had gone in to set up camps at three Kurdish towns for potential refugees from any conflict between Washington and Baghdad.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman, Necati Utkan, used his weekly briefing to deny the report. "There is not such a move to date," he said.

Journalists were barred from passing the southeastern Turkish town of Cizre, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the border on the road to Habur, and are excluded from northern Iraq by the Turkish authorities.

Turkey has mounted frequent cross-border incursions against Turkish Kurd rebels with bases in northern Iraq, outside Baghdad's control since the Gulf War of 1991.

Turkish newspapers reported Saturday that the cabinet had plans to send troops into northern Iraq to create a 15-kilometer buffer zone inside the region to prevent refugees from pouring into Turkey if the United States and Iraq came to blows over arms inspections.

Turkish sources said the government's measures could take the form of tent cities and intensive humanitarian aid coordinated by the military.

More than 500,000 Iraqi Kurds massed near the Turkish border in fear of retaliation by Baghdad following a failed Kurdish rebellion in the aftermath of the Gulf War.

But Mr. Utkan said Monday that Turkey had "no plan for a buffer zone" inside northern Iraq.

Regarding potential refugees, Mr. Utkan said, "There are ways to handle some 100 displaced persons, but if the number is 500,000, you have to take other measures." (Reuters, AFP)

Algiers Rebuffs European Mission Over a List of the Missing

The Associated Press

ALGIERS — European lawmakers met with their Algerian counterparts Monday after getting a cool reception when they asked about disappearances during a 6-year-old insurgency by Islamic militants.

The Algerian lawmakers instead asked the Europeans to help by cutting off sources of foreign cash and arms used by the militants in their drive to bring down the military-backed government.

The nine-member fact-finding mission from the European Parliament, which arrived Sunday for a five-day visit, was to gather information on the insurgency after massacres last month that left hun-

dreds dead. Some reports have linked government forces to the slayings.

On Sunday, the authorities rejected a request by the European delegation to visit massacre sites.

During a meeting Sunday night with Algerian lawmakers, a Belgian member of the mission, Anne-Andree Leonard, asked about Algerians who were missing in the conflict.

But Abdelkader Hadjar, the head of the foreign affairs commission of the National Popular Assembly, the Parliament dominated by pro-government parties, refused to accept a list of the missing from Miss Leonard. Instead, he suggested that the list be sent "by official diplomatic

means" to Algerian human rights organizations, one of which is official.

Mr. Hadjar asked that "the embargo on anti-terrorist technology be lifted," referring to arms that the West has avoided selling to the Algerians.

He also requested an investigation of "the networks of support and finance of terrorism" in Europe.

The fact-finding mission came a month after another, inconclusive European Union mission. The delegates planned to meet this week with a cross-section of politicians, human rights and feminist groups, as well as relatives of massacre victims.

The delegation includes a member of

the German Green Party, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, who is known for suggesting foreign intervention to protect Algerian civilians. Austria, France, Spain and Greece also are represented.

On the eve of the new mission, the Algerian prime minister, Ahmed Ouyahia, reiterated his "rejection of any foreign interference." Critics of the government, however, call the stand a smoke screen to avoid an inquiry that could link the army to at least a passive role in the killings. According to the government, 26,536 people have been killed in the insurgency. Press and hospital sources put the number killed at 75,000.

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

Keep Helping Asia

Asia's currencies have stabilized, and stock markets are bouncing back. The U.S. economy continues to roll, with 358,000 jobs created last month as wages rise, unemployment remains low and the Dow Jones average forges ahead. Maybe, a member of Congress might think, the Asian financial storm has blown past. Maybe we don't have to give the IMF all those billions the Clinton administration is pressing for.

If only it were so. Unfortunately, on many levels, it is too soon to relax. For millions of workers and their families in Indonesia, Thailand, South Korea and elsewhere, trouble is just beginning. Even if their nations' currencies and stock markets have bounced out of the consequences of rising unemployment, slowed economic growth and declining standards of living have yet to unfold. To some extent, such consequences are unavoidable. But Americans have more than a humanitarian interest in mitigating Asia's pain.

So far, the economic impact on the United States has been, if anything, beneficial, as Asia's crisis dampens inflationary pressure in America. But in the coming months the impact is likely to be less positive, as competitive pressures threaten some American jobs. And if the economic crisis worsens and provokes ethnic riots in Indonesia and social instability elsewhere, the national security and economic impact on the United States could be adverse in the extreme.

Moreover, the financial situation remains precarious. This is especially so in Indonesia, where the dictatorial President Suharto refuses to recognize the need for more democracy or to prepare the ground for a political transition. Democratic South Korea is in far better shape, thanks to the earnestness and skill with which President-elect Kim Dae Jung has devoted himself to far-reaching economic reform. But even South Korea remains vulnerable

to shifts in fickle and sometimes irrational international financial flows.

So do nations not yet infected, or barely infected, by the Asian "contagion," from China to Hong Kong to Russia to Brazil. Any one of these developing nations, or all of them, could be tripped up by a congressional refusal to support the IMF.

Critics attack the IMF, the international organization leading the financial rescue of Asia's economies, on two grounds. Some accept its importance but cite the mistakes it has made. It has made mistakes, and it does need to be more open in its functioning. But the reforms it is promoting this time around—for less corruption and cronyism, greater openness, reliable unemployment insurance and more—will promote democracy and social welfare if faithfully implemented.

Other critics question the need for the IMF at all, saying it distorts the free market and rewards, or at least relieves, those in the private sector who have gambled foolishly and do not deserve relief. The simplest answer to this is that we do not know what might have happened, and what might yet happen, without the IMF as a stabilizing force. The possibility of global financial meltdown is real enough—and frightening enough—not to be trifled with.

At the same time, no one likes to have to choose between bailing out the unworthy and risking world depression. After Mexico's financial crisis in 1994, the IMF instituted some reforms that were meant to guard against a repetition. They obviously did not do the job. Now it would help the Clinton administration's position, and the IMF's, if both were seen to be hard at work to prevent the next crisis. Shoring up the IMF's financial position is a necessary step toward that end. But it cannot be the only step.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Filling Tech Jobs

The sudden awareness of a rapidly expanding field for high-paid, high-skilled employment—the computer sector—has occasioned some giddiness on the policy front. The long-sleeved programs at Labor and Commerce devoted to "school-to-work" transitions and the always struggling "retraining" enterprise are humming with activity and White House-level attention. Vice President Al Gore last month announced a package of grants pushing industry and employers to expand training programs to encourage people to retool for careers as computer engineers, technicians or systems analysts. The occasional mad dreamer is even reported setting up computer sites to impart high-tech literacy to welfare mothers and the homeless—and more power to them.

Predictions are that the high-tech sector will at least double its current crop of jobs over the next decade—that's a million more jobs—and that those jobs will depend on skills that, at least for now, are rare enough to create a seller's market for those who have had the foresight to acquire them.

You could hardly imagine a situation that tests more directly the fa-

miliar political formulation about education and work in the new economy. On the one hand, you have the jobs and frantic employers; on the other, people who would leap at the jobs if only they could be taught how to do them. The question, of course, is just that: How difficult is it to acquire these skills?

Are they the equivalent of, say, fluency in a foreign language (attainable, but only after long and significant effort, and far easier for some than others), or are they more like competent word-processing skills (attainable by anyone reasonably diligent who gets the proper training)? Or are they out of reach for a mix of all of the above?

Given the nature of the current tech work force, the overlap is probably not that high between people who can answer such questions from direct experience and people who make the educational and governmental policies in question. It is great to dream and scheme about high-tech training as the magic bullet for dead-end employment of the unskilled. But it will take many, many experiments to zero in on what part of the dream is plausible.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Troubled Armenia

The resignation this month of Armenia's president, Levon Ter-Petrosian, was a disturbing development for peace and ethnic harmony in the Caucasus. Largely Christian Armenia is at war with its larger and richer Muslim neighbor, Azerbaijan, over Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in Azerbaijan populated by Armenians, who are seeking independence. In September, Mr. Ter-Petrosian, under pressure from the United States, France and Russia, announced his support for a peace plan that contained necessary compromises. These enraged hard-liners in his government and parliamentary coalition, who forced him to resign.

He was already unpopular, largely due to suspicions that he won the 1996 election through fraud. But his peace plan, seen by many Armenians as a sellout, is the only realistic solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh war, which began in 1988 after the enclave demanded Armenian rule and has killed 25,000 people, mostly civilians. It has sabotaged Armenia's economy and threatens the stability of the oil- and gas-rich Caspian Sea region. Mr. Ter-

Petrosian's ouster increases chances that a cease-fire that has held since 1994 will be broken.

His resignation also formalizes the increasing grip on power of an unsavory band of military and security officials. Their troops beat demonstrators protesting election fraud, and some have ties to a group that has attacked religious minorities.

The sponsors of the negotiations, most importantly Moscow, must scramble to keep the peace effort from collapsing. They must persuade Armenia's new leaders that the agreement, which would result in some form of autonomy but not independence for Nagorno-Karabakh, is the only chance to achieve the stability and peace the country needs.

International groups must mobilize now to supervise new elections scheduled for March 16, as another ballot clouded by fraud would harm Armenia's tenuous democracy. But even a clean election will likely choose a president unwilling to make the compromises necessary for peace.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

A Crisis of Political Transition Hobbles Indonesia

By Hilton L. Root

MANILA — The depth of Indonesia's problems continues to surprise international monetary officials, and worry investors and markets.

The currency has not rebounded despite a recent agreement with the IMF that cuts government spending, tightens monetary policy, restructures the banking sector and reduces opportunities for nepotism.

The agreement was expected to restore confidence and signal the commitment of President Suharto to reform. But the medicine is not working because there is a missing ingredient.

The IMF's agreement was established by decree with an autocratic ruler, whose mandate derives from an electoral college that he largely appoints. It was the product of behind-the-scenes negotiations; the parties whose cooperation is needed did not participate.

The details are so confidential that even the IMF's counterpart multilateral organizations are left in the dark. How can this process inspire confidence?

The closed Indonesian accord stands in sharp contrast to the agreements reached in South Korea, where support was enlisted through electoral competition, and the possible costs of the reforms were publicly debated.

The Indonesian reforms are contestable on the grounds that they were

imposed from the outside without demonstrated domestic consensus or at least broad public support.

Aware that the reform program lacks social and political backing, investors hesitate. In an unstable political environment, what was enacted by administrative fiat can easily be overturned.

Austerity measures are likely to intensify perceived income inequality. Many Indonesians question why they should shoulder debts incurred to enrich a handful of regime cronies.

As the effects of crisis spread, groups that stand to lose most are tempted to take their dissatisfaction to the streets, increasing the probability that force has to be used.

The reform package may also be denounced by the ruling clique as the externally imposed source of Indonesia's hardships, and by opposition groups as a sign of international collusion with the regime.

Concerns about the president's level of commitment to the IMF-mandated reforms have surfaced. In previous times of trouble, Mr. Suharto gained international confidence by supporting the policies of a team of technocrats in his government despite often fierce op-

position. He no longer has a team that inspires such confidence, and his response in applying the painful reforms, including those affecting the extensive business interests of his family and friends, has wavered.

His actions reveal that his understanding of the crisis is radically different from that of the international community.

The threat of retribution by a successor government is another reason investors despair. The shares of Suharto family-owned businesses in Indonesia have fallen faster than others on the Jakarta Stock Exchange.

With public anger growing at the greed and excesses of the first family and its business associates, any new government might want to settle scores. This heightens the risk, as Mr. Suharto sees it, that his family's wealth might not survive a succession crisis and that his regime may end violently.

The retired army general, who has been president of Indonesia for more than 30 years, is 76 and in suspect health. The security that came from enduring leadership now appears to have been an illusion.

The economy is collapsing because the country has not developed politically. Its institutions, including the legislature and the judiciary, have not ma-

tured. Mr. Suharto recently put himself in charge of an Economic Resilience Council formed to monitor compliance with the IMF reforms because existing institutions could not be trusted.

This highlights a deeper problem: Nothing happens in Indonesia unless the president takes a direct interest.

Persistent suppression of political rivals means that investors cannot assess the range of alternatives to Mr. Suharto's rule. While they are shunning an Indonesia held together by military force, they are returning to Thailand and South Korea, where elected governments are clearly committed to reform.

The IMF succeeded in getting its wish list of reforms formally accepted by Indonesia. But the package has failed to restore confidence because what was diagnosed as an economic crisis has mutated into a crisis of political transition. This creates risks that the market cannot evaluate.

Indonesia no longer has a functioning financial system because it does not have a functioning political system.

The writer, a senior research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and author of "Small Countries, Big Lessons: Governance and the Rise of East Asia," contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Expect Most of Diverse East Asia to Come Storming Back

By Gregory Clark

TOKYO — As Asia's col-

lapsed currencies and stock markets continue to recover, what happens to recent Western gloating over deflated "Asian values"?

Three problems caused the recent collapses, and none of them had anything to do with "Asian values."

One was currency overvaluation due to the inflow of foreign funds chasing high growth and profits. Then there was trade imbalance, as the new rich splurged on imported goods. On top of all that was declining competitiveness as labor costs rose vis-à-vis China.

Currency and stock speculators simply provided the coup de grace.

These problems are serious, but few in the anti-Asian-values school seem to realize that they are cured virtually auto-

matically by those currency and stock market collapses.

The excessive inflow of foreign funds is cut, the new rich become the new poor, and ability to compete with China is restored, since Beijing, unlike Taiwan, bravely refused to devalue its currency.

Provided inflation is kept under control, heavy currency devaluation means that it is only a matter of time before most of those collapsed Asian economies come storming back as even more formidable competitors than before.

The speculators realize this, and many have made small fortunes by buying back into the currencies and stock markets that they helped to topple.

The West needs to get a better handle on its Asian-values

and clash-of-civilizations phobias. In the first place, there is no such thing as common "Asian values."

In non-Western societies, there is more emphasis on personal relations and less legalism than in the West. And the Sinic-culture societies of Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea and China tend strongly to endorse the role of state and family.

But in semi-feudalistic Japan it is the immediate group that is all-important. Japan is much closer to the post-feudal North European model than to any Sinic or Asian model.

The Southeast Asians—the Philippines, Indonesia and to some extent Malaysia and Thailand—belong to another and much less structured village or "cronyist" model.

As for the so-called Asian growth model, in the past it was often used in the West. It says that economies facing particular problems—rapid growth from poverty, war, depression—need a degree of central control. Free markets and laissez-faire can come later.

Why have most of the Asian nations done better than most other non-Western nations? Because a smart entrepreneurial class of largely Chinese but also some Indian origin was able and willing to invest to take advantage of cheap labor. (Japan and South Korea supplied their own entrepreneurs.)

Once development started, it snowballed, since development today is not the slow accretion of capital and technology prescribed by outdated Western textbooks. It is a matter of improved infrastructure

combined with cheap labor. The more the investment, the better the infrastructure, the more the investment.

The snowball can easily get out of control. But it can be put back on track again simply by devaluing the currency. If governments won't do that, the speculators will.

The exception is Japan, a 19th century high-labor-cost, Western-style economy suddenly having to adjust to the 21st century.

Its work ethic remains better than the West's, but that is not enough. Speculators betting on a fast Japanese recovery should be warned.

The writer, a former Australian diplomat, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Blair's Tune Isn't What the Continent Wants to Hear

By Roy Denman

BRUSSELS — From Brussels to London is 217 miles (350 kilometers) on the map. Politically it has been about 2,017. In Washington last week, Tony Blair made the gap another 1,000 miles broader.

It is not a bad thing for the British prime minister and the American president to be on friendly terms. Churchill and Roosevelt famously were, as were Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. For the head of a medium-sized power to be regally received by the head of the world's superpower must be gratifying. Mr. Blair knows that it will open, for the time being, many doors for him and his team in Washington.

He and Bill Clinton have much in common. They are young, charismatic, skillful, pragmatic, left-of-center politicians, who took power after a long period of right-wing rule. Ideologically they have as much in common as did Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Reagan. And despite all the pitfalls of a common language, they can communicate with ease and intimacy.

Of course, some of the exuberance of the meeting could be discounted because each badly needed the other. The president is dangerously under attack; he wanted to show the American people that he had a prominent

and squeaky-clean friend who believed him and stood by him. Also, preparing for an air strike against Saddam Hussein, he wanted to demonstrate that America was not isolated; at least one ally was prepared to go all the way in support.

Mr. Blair was keen to show, in the fashion of most of his predecessors, that he was the trusted and feted friend of the most powerful man in the world.

How did all this look from Continental Europe?

When John Major, who had become about as popular in Europe as Genghis Khan, was defeated, Europeans greeted

Tony Blair and his pro-European rhetoric with cries of relief. But now the bloom is off the rose. As the Dutch prime minister reminded him when Mr. Blair spoke in The Hague on Jan. 20, what is now needed is not rhetoric but commitment.

When is Tony Blair going to have a referendum and fix a date for joining the single currency? Most of the member states of the European Union will share a single currency in less than a year. In only two months' time the countries forming the bloc will start meeting on their own. Britain will be outside for at least four years and possibly longer. Britain will be increasingly marginalized in Europe.

Looking at televised images of the Blair visit to Washington, Continental Europeans must have wondered whether Britain wants anything else.

George Urban, one of Mrs. Thatcher's advisers, told how by "her all-encompassing obedience" to Ronald Reagan "she was reducing the U.K. to the status of a client state of America." Is this happening again?

There may be a case for armed action against Saddam Hussein. But does Tony Blair have to accept immediately every dot and comma of the American plan?

Slow and painful though it will be, as their economic and political integration proceeds, the Euro 11 will have to set about forging a common foreign policy. How can a Britain intend on being America's puppet ever fit in?

And what about the talk of

seminars and a "deep ideological relationship" on social issues? The British social model may be clearer the American than the Continental European, but the differences between them are still enormous. It is hard to imagine America accepting the banning of handguns, or the "socialized" medicine of the British National Health Service.

One of the major difficulties in European integration has always been the gap between the social system of Britain and those of the Continent. Europeans know that they have to make changes to their own pattern, but they attach more importance to social cohesion than do the Anglo-Saxons. When they hear that Mr. Blair is considering moving his social model to converge more with the American pattern, their sense that Britain does not belong in the European club can only increase.

In his first year, Prime Minister Blair has sent two signals to Europe. One is that Britain is not prepared for at least four years, and possibly longer, to join the next momentous stage in European integration, and cannot understand why the rest will move ahead without it.

The other is that he still hankers after what, when all the rhetoric and fancy packaging is stripped away, is a client-state relationship with America.

The writer, a former representative of the European Commission in Washington, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Britain Between Superpowers

By Michael Elliott

NEW YORK — This is what happens to teenage musicians when they grow up. They get to run their countries and tell each other how great they are.

When Bill Clinton (saxophone) welcomed Tony Blair on an official visit to America last week, he praised his guest as one who has "shown the foresight, the imagination, the daring to envision a new world and the determination to make it real."

A day later, Mr. Blair (guitar) repaid the compliment. Mr. Clinton, he had found, was "someone I could trust, someone I could rely upon, someone I am proud to call not just a colleague, but a friend."

And for those who think that their friendship is just PR fluff, their meeting could not have been better timed. For once, the "special relationship" has some content.

In a week in which some Europeans saw America as a bully—willing to execute a Texan woman, to bomb Baghdad into the Mesopotamian age, to fly recklessly over the Dolomites—Britain showed itself to be a true friend. In its latest face-off with Iraq, the United States has found Mr. Blair's government not only ready to back the possible use of force against Saddam Hussein but prepared to contribute to it.

Yet before everyone gets carried away by talk of a new Anglo-American golden age, some caveats are in order. One is simply a function of time. In less than three years (at most) Mr. Clinton will be writing his memoirs. Mr. Blair has the chance to be prime minister for another decade or more. His friendship with Mr. Clinton may eventually be seen as no more than a footnote to his political history.

Second, there is something suspiciously easy about the Blair-Clinton duet. The special relationship doesn't need much work. Everyone speaks English; a common North Atlantic market in education, the media and the entertainment business means that there are a thousand webs of old friendships and mutual understandings. Classical economic theory—invented in Britain, perfected in the United States—provides a sort of intellectual glue to policy discussions.

It is much harder for Britons or Americans to find the same common ground with the Germans or the French. Yet that task is now crucial for both countries.

Under French-German leadership, the European Union is slowly, gradually becoming a political and economic superpower. Almost certainly, 11 of the 15 nations of the EU will form a currency union next year; their economic and social policies will then gradually converge under shared political institutions.

This development holds great promise for the United States, allowing it to share the burden of economic and political fire-fighting around the world. American leaders know this.

In answer to a question at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, last week, three prominent Americans—Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson, Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers and Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich—all said they would unreservedly welcome the development of the EU as a second democratic superpower.

It would help Washington

enormously if Britain were a committed member of the new Europe, able to act as an interlocutor between the United States and other European powers. At a joint press conference last week, for example, Mr. Blair touched on a subject of deep concern to the U.S. administration—the need to build a strong relationship between Europe and Turkey.

As the Iraq crisis is showing, it is nice for both countries' militaries to be able to depend on each other. But Britain cannot yet help the United States as much as it might. For good reasons or bad, early membership of the currency union has become the litmus test of being a "good European."

Mr. Blair has said that Britain will not join until his second term—which probably means no sooner than 2002. In the interim, however hard he tries, he will not be able to speak with full authority in European conclaves.

For complex and understandable reasons of history, the British have always found it hard to be wholehearted about European integration. Sometimes they give the sense that they don't even want to try. In an astonishing blunder, there was not a single member of the British cabinet at Davos, the place for high-level debate on the future of Europe.

Yet the paradox is this: Without such a commitment to European integration, the ability to Washington of the government-to-government special relationship will gradually diminish. (Personal, cultural and economic links between Britons and Americans are as strong as ever.) No word yet on whether, during last week's lovefest, Mr. Clinton quietly made that point to his new chum. But he should have.

Newweek

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: French Demand

PARIS — The Times' Peking correspondent telegraphed: "Mr. Dubail, the French Chargé d'Affaires, has formulated unreasonable demands upon the Tsung-Li-Yamen. He requires the payment of an indemnity in the family of a Frenchman who was kidnapped in Tongking, as is alleged, by Chinese brigands and subsequently liberated. Eight days are given for a favorable reply, in default of which French action in the south will become necessary. The reply must necessarily be unfavorable and the Chinese are helplessly awaiting French action."

1923: Sect Marriages

PAWPAW, Michigan — Ruth B. Reed and Gladys B. Hubel, girl members of the House of David sect, have filed suit here against Mr. Benjamin Purnell, head of the sect, for \$800,000

damages, charging that he forced them to marry when they were sixteen years of age. The complaint also charges that immoral practices were made possible by Purnell's complete dictatorship of the sect.

1948: Negro Soldiers

WASHINGTON — The United States Army will continue to segregate Negro soldiers in separate units within white battalions, Secretary for War Kenneth Royall said. Mr. Royall's statement was made in answer to an inquiry from the Governor of New Jersey as to whether the Army's segregation policy would prevent the National Guard in New Jersey from complying out of the non-discrimination policy of New Jersey. He said that the armed forces take steps to have the remaining instances of discrimination eliminated, the armed forces eliminated.

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OPINION/LETTERS

Washington Gives a Beating To 'Everybody's Best Aunt'

By Maureen Dowd

WASHINGTON — I've had some lousy days at work. But I can't imagine how hard it was for Betty Currie to sit at her desk outside the Oval Office on Friday and say good morning to the boss.

The president's secretary is a dignified, self-possessed 58-year-old, the very model of a discreet, loyal civil servant. Unlike the rest of Washington, she doesn't live to dish and she doesn't take pleasure from the ruin of others and she doesn't boast about her proximity to power.

She's like everybody's best aunt," recalls George Stephanopoulos.

In the War Room and the West Wing, she was an island of calm in the chaos. Until the chaos engulfed her, until the White House was stricken by the fear that Betty Currie would become John Dean.

Then she became the most poignant casualty of Bill Clinton's carelessness and concupiscence.

So finally, in all this muck, there is someone to admire. The best aunt stands out in this lousy cast of high low life and low low life — a woman who secretly tapes her girlfriend's misery; a special prosecutor who sometimes resembles a stalker; a ditsy, predatory White House intern who might have lied under oath for a job at Revlon; a reactionary book agent with an addiction to dirt; a first lady whose ambition extends her husband's infidelities, and, of course, the Big Mac, a president who discards principle and people with frightening ease.

Mrs. Currie is an anomaly in the sex scandal, a modest, moral, religious woman who is not partisan and who is not out for herself.

Pinioned between a pres-

ident and a prosecutor who will each do whatever it takes, she has been forced to walk a painful line between truth and loyalty.

For the president and his consigliere, Vernon Jordan, the best aunt could have been the perfect beard. She could have played the unimpeachable (get it?) den mother nurturing young Monica Lewinsky. That could have explained the former intern's incessant visits to the Oval Office.

But here's the beauty part: The best aunt refused to go with the cover story. She did something shocking in Bill Clinton's Washington.

She told the truth. In a town so fogged in circumlocutions and deceptions and evasions and memory lapses and stone walls and smoke screens and conspiracy theories and diversionary tactics, Mrs. Currie's straightforwardness was thrilling.

It can't have been fun. She admires the president and probably wanted to help, but not if it meant lying under oath. In that crush of reporters outside the courthouse, Mrs. Currie was an unforgettable picture of a good woman mortified.

According to The Times, she told investigators that the president had been alone with Ms. Lewinsky, contrary to his assertions. She said she had retrieved the president's gifts to the young lady — brooch, hat pin and that famous dress.

She said that he called her into the office on a Sunday, the day after he testified in the Paula Jones case, to go over the questions he had just been asked about his relationship with the frisky intern.

Some skeptics might wonder why the president, with his famous memory for details, would need to go over questions he had answered the day before. Of course, in Clintonland, it's a blurry little line between refreshing and coaching.

The president led the loyal secretary through a series of questions — like,

We were never alone, right? Even some Clintonites were appalled. "Because he won't tell his story, because he won't face up to whatever happened," said one, in disgust, "she gets the living [expletive deleted] kicked out of her."

Beyond sex and lying and recklessness, this scandal is really about the selfishness of the man at the top. All this pain is just the price of Bill Clinton's pleasure. Whether or not the president is destroying himself, he is destroying other people.

Asked Friday at his press conference with Tony Blair if he might resign, Mr. Clinton replied, Never.

I care about ordinary people whose voices aren't often heard here," he said.

Oh yes they are. Those are the groans — and the legal bills — of ordinary people all around him.

I'm not coaching you, dear readers, I'm just refreshing you: The ordeal of Betty Currie is repellent, right?

The New York Times

Vatican Archives and Clues to the Holocaust

By David Kertzer

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island — Pope John Paul II has apologized many times for the role that Christianity played in the rise of anti-Semitism through the ages. But now the church is encouraging a much more thorough examination of that history.

Last month, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, announced that the archives of the Roman Inquisition would now be open to scholars.

Cardinal Ratzinger's announcement came weeks after Pope John Paul II convened an unprecedented conference on the Christian roots of anti-Semitism. It was the first time the church had so actively encouraged a discussion of this history and, more particularly, of church actions during the Holocaust.

The opening of the archives will enable scholars to study documents dating back to the establishment of the Roman Inquisition in 1542, begun more than half a century after the Spanish Inquisition.

Access will be limited, however. Researchers will not be permitted to see materials from the 20th century. And over the years many records have been lost.

Still, the few scholars who have recently been granted access to the archives verify that a wealth of material remains. The Inquisition — or the Congregation of the Holy Office, as it was formally known — ac-

MEANWHILE

cumulated a vast quantity of documentation over the centuries, mostly having to do with heresy. The cases of Giordano Bruno, the philosopher burned at the stake for heterodoxy in 1600, and Galileo, convicted of heresy in 1633 after he claimed that Earth revolved around the sun, are among the most famous.

Scholars also hope to find records that illuminate the church's relations with the Jews. Among the earliest acts of the Inquisition, for instance, was the order, in 1553, that all copies of the Talmud be located and burned. The office of the Inquisition also enforced an order, promulgated later in the 16th century, that called for the Jews of the Papal States to be evicted from all but a few towns, where they were restricted to ghettos.

Records of the Inquisition's con-

duct in the 19th century may prove especially revealing, as this was a critical moment in the church's treatment of Jews. Despite the trend elsewhere to give Jews full civil rights, the church held to its principles.

An edict the Holy Office issued in 1843, for example, called for more vigorous enforcement of restrictions. All social contact between Jew and Christian was forbidden. Jews were not allowed to own homes or land.

Two years ago I was at the Vatican researching one of the Inquisition's most notorious acts of the 19th century. In 1858, the inquisitor of Bologna learned that a Christian servant employed by a Jewish family had sprinkled water on their infant and recited the baptismal formula.

The case was simple for the Inquisition: A baptized child was a Christian, and a Christian child could not be raised by Jews. The inquisitor ordered the boy, Edgardo Mortara, taken off to a monastery in Rome. The boy's parents naturally objected. Napoleon III, Catholic emperor of France, protested strenuously, as did Protestants and Jews in Europe and America. The furor contributed to the demise of the Papal States.

When I asked the Vatican archivist if I could consult Inquisition

records on this, he told me they were sealed. Of course, he added, I could seek permission from Cardinal Ratzinger. His smile indicated how good he thought my chances were.

Now these files are open. Clearly the church is undergoing great change, although not without resistance from within.

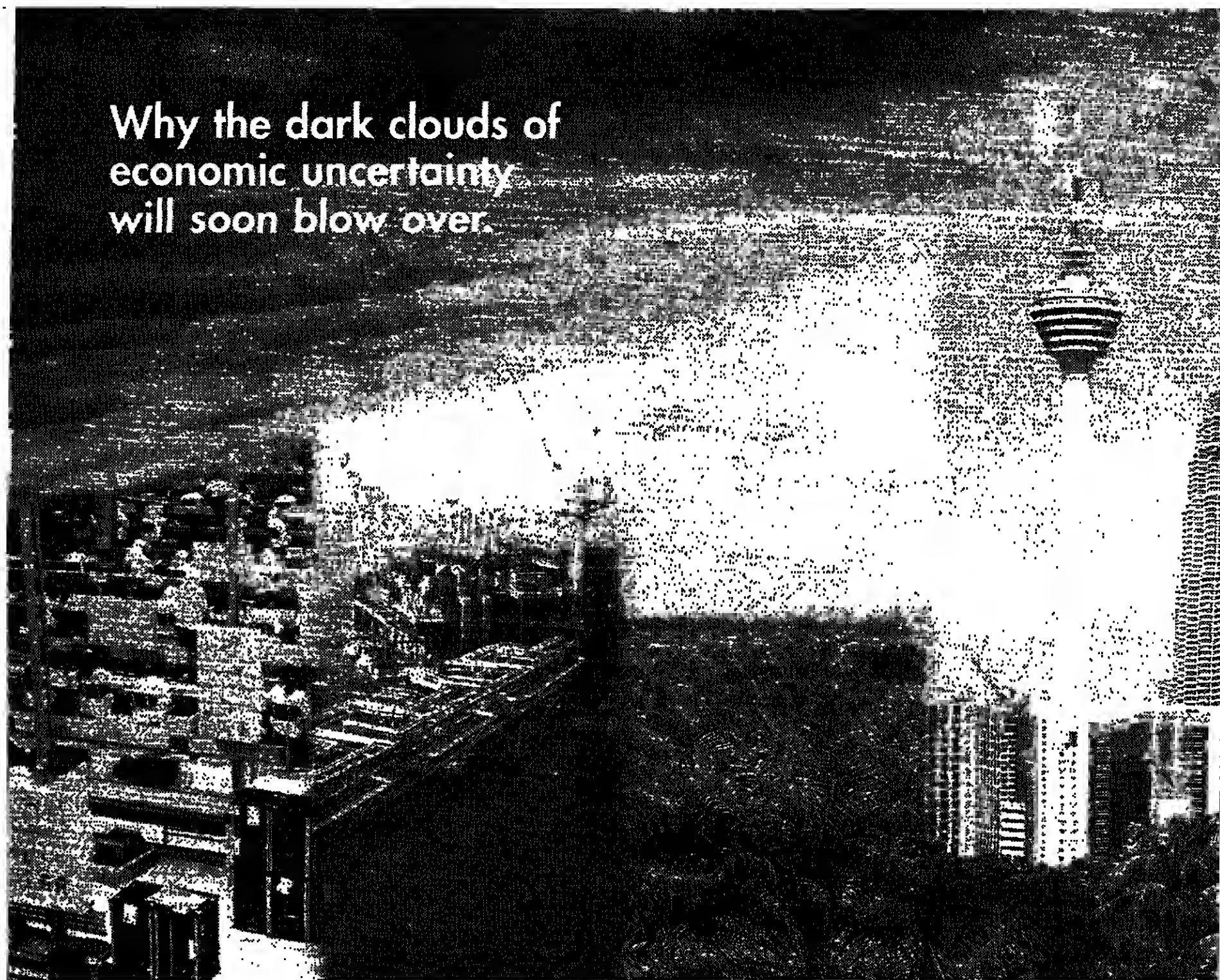
The most heated debate today revolves around the question of how the Vatican, and Pope Pius XII in particular, acted during and after World War II. What could the Pope have done to save the Jews? To what extent did the church aid the escape of Nazi war criminals?

But while we still await access to the records that will help answer these questions, we can learn much from the newly opened archives. The explanation of what made the Holocaust possible is to be found in no small part in the files of the Inquisition.

Those documents will deepen our knowledge of how for centuries the Roman Catholic Church conditioned the European population to view the Jews as inferiors.

The writer, an anthropology and history professor at Brown University, contributed this comment to The New York Times.

Why the dark clouds of economic uncertainty will soon blow over.



There have been dark clouds hovering over Malaysia lately. One such cloud has cleared... the haze. Yet when we were about to enjoy blue skies again, another dark cloud set in... economic uncertainty.

We Malaysians, however, expect this to clear too. In due time. With an optimism that is borne out of four decades of incredible economic growth the world has been witness to.

With the perseverance to make changes and sacrifices. With the wisdom of solid economic fundamentals to see us through. With the determination to do everything for the economy to bounce back.

And bounce back we will. How can we be so bullish about it? Because we've overcome other adversities before. And we'll do it again.

MALAYSIA Bullish on Bouncing Back

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

U.S. and Iraq

"Regarding 'The Only Option May Be Bombs and More Bombs' (Opinion, Feb. 2) by Thomas L. Friedman and 'Use All Necessary Force to Remove Saddam in Gulf War II' (Opinion, Feb. 3) by William Safire:

Thank you for publishing these two articles. They are prime specimens, reflecting the megalomania and arrogance prevalent among opinion makers and politicians in the United States.

George Bush first invented the myth of the "new Hitler" to gain support for Gulf War I. Now Mr. Safire resuscitates the canard to pave the way for Gulf War II.

The present rabid braying and warmongering will surely serve to stiffen Iraq's resolve, to increase their hatred of their American tormentors and to rally the people around their president. It will also add to the increasing international resentment and impatience with the boundless arrogance and bullying of the United States.

W. AL ZAHAWIE

Vatican City.

The writer is Iraq's ambassador to the Holy See.

Before the United States again kills a lot of Arabs, it should be clear what principles are at stake. Clearly not at stake is the principle that every state must comply with all UN Security Council resolutions binding upon it. Israel certainly does not.

The principle at stake appears to be that none of Israel's enemies should be permitted to acquire those weapons of mass destruction that Israel already possesses.

The best way to achieve peace in the Middle East is not to make war but to insist that all states comply with international law.

JOHN V. WHITBECK

London.

Smoking in Germany

"Regarding 'Germany Shifts Out Bill to Restrict Smoking' (Feb. 7):

The article mentions 17 million German smokers. It seems more like 71 million.

My 14-year-old daughter goes to a German school, and as a nonsmoker she is part of a small minority. Don't bother asking for a nonsmoking table at a restaurant or café in Germany — you'd have better luck asking for a Burger King in North Korea. Go to

any rally sponsored by the supposedly environmentally conscious Green Party and you'll see young mothers blowing cigarette smoke in the faces of those newborn babies they claim to want to protect from pollution.

Germans never ask their neighbors before lighting up if the smoke will bother them. In all fairness, this is probably because the neighbors, too, are smokers. Nonsmokers are regarded by the vast majority of Germans as a bothersome minority, and the non-smoking movement in the United States is seen as extreme or even radical.

Before Bonn points to the \$14 billion in tax revenues it rakes in yearly from tobacco taxes, maybe it should consider what it pays out in health care. It should also consider that the vast majority of Germany's nearly 5 million unemployed people smoke at least a pack a day, paying \$3 a pack. That comes to about \$5 billion in subsidized cigarettes a year.

German politicians may not lose in this deal, but the German people do.

MARC EMORY.

Düsseldorf.

Flying Low

"Regarding '20 Die in Italy as Plane Cuts Ski Lift Cable' (Feb. 4):

While living in West Germany in 1983 and 1984, I saw and heard U.S. military planes scream over our back garden just above treetop level at least once a month — this in a residential neighborhood with schools nearby. We don't hear about these aviation exploits because until now the pilots have been very lucky.

BARBARA MORAN.

Cambridge, England.

Sloppy English

"Regarding 'A Former Lover Questions Monica Lewinsky's Credibility' (Jan. 29):

Good heavens, is it not bad enough that we Americans have arrived at the investigation of our sexual inclinations by inquisitorial means? Can we also not use the English language properly?

Andy Bleiler, a former high school teacher no less, said that recent months had been "a very difficult time for my wife and I."

For? Me's glad I moved to Europe.

LEONORE SUHL.

Portimão, Portugal.

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1998

INTERNATIONAL

For British Press, 'Diana' Is Still an Untold Story (and a Big Seller, Too)

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

LONDON — With Diana, Princess of Wales, gone, a new press code in place and the comparatively straight-laced officials of Prime Minister Tony Blair's new Labor government offering scant opportunities for keyhole discoveries, the British press has had to extend even its storied reach to turn up front-page notoriety.

Newspapers have sought to exploit the only lapse thus far in Mr. Blair's ranks — Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's leaving his wife to marry his secretary — but it has simply amounted to giving Mr. Blair some practice at damage control of a kind that is quaint, compared with what he witnessed at the White House last week.

To halt flagging circulation, magazines and newspapers are recycling news about the late princess and are

casting about for stand-in figures, usually blond ones, for the day, evidently still distant, when every Diana tale has been told.

Recent weeks have seen "So, Did Diana Really Love Charles Until the Day She Died?" and "Queen Fights to Stop New Diana Secrets" in The Daily Mail; "The Diana Conspiracy" and "Di: Ecstasy Tablets Being Sold in London" in The Evening Standard; "How Safe Are the Secrets of Diana?" in The Daily Telegraph; "Diana Song No. 1 for Funerals" in The Independent; "Di Butler: I Want to Run Fund" in The Sun; and "5 Million Calls to Di Grave Hotline" in The Mirror.

The Daily Mail has begun a 200-page series on "the full untold story of her life" accompanied by offers of "Diana Rose Buses" and "Fabulous Diana Video."

On successive days The Sun and The Mirror devoted their front pages first to a

supposed feud between the Richard Branson, a British entrepreneur, and the newly knighted Sir Elton John over the recording of the song he performed at her funeral ("Wangle in the Wind" said The Sun), and then to the \$800,000 bill the princess's lawyers submitted for 11 days of work on her memorial fund ("Shameful" said The Mirror).

The article with top play in The Daily Telegraph raised an issue that the press itself has apparently not yet contemplated. The headline read, "Royal Family to Look to Their Future Without Diana."

Roy Greenslade, the press critic of The Guardian, said, "The way papers are maintaining Diana's status as a sales gimmick, quite apart from its tastelessness, smells of ingenuity at best and desperation at worst."

There is no more competitive newspaper market in the world than Britain, with its 11 national dailies and nine national Sunday papers.

They fight one another with price cuts, beefed-up weekend papers, promotional gimmicks, such as cheap travel tickets and human-interest stories whose detail outweighs their consequence.

Their circulations are enormous and sensitive to stories that keep reader interest, producing fluctuations that can quickly get into hundreds of thousands of readers.

The Audit Bureau of Circulation figures for September, the month that attention to Diana was the highest, showed The Sun at 3.9 million, The Mirror at 2.4 million, The Daily Mail at 2.3 million and The Daily Telegraph at 1.1 million. By December, those numbers had declined between 4 percent and 9 percent.

There may have been a brief recovery in the past 10 days with the broad attention the papers have paid to the Washington sex scandal, but the only sustainable subject British editors seem to trust is Diana.

But the need for new talent has obliged the press to begin rehabilitating Diana's former sister-in-law, Sarah Ferguson, the duchess of York, who after a period of being dismissed as too lightweight to be of interest to anyone but Americans was pictured in Tuscany with a favorably portrayed 48-year-old millionaire Italian nobleman.

The press has maintained the discretion it promised in its treatment of the royal family. Over the Christmas holidays, Prince Charles asked that photographers confine to one posed photo session their coverage of a vacation he and his sons, Princes William and Harry, took to the Swiss ski resort of Klosters, and the only violators were French paparazzi whom royal security men chased off the mountain.

■ Could Diana Have Survived?

The torn pulmonary vein blamed for causing the death of Diana in a car crash

might not have killed her if she had been sent to the hospital immediately and placed on a heart-lung machine, Time magazine reported. Reuters reported from New York.

"If there is a complete rupture, the person dies very quickly, according to a thoracic surgeon at a public hospital in Paris," Time reported in its Feb. 16 issue.

He said that victims who arrive alive are the ones who have incomplete ruptures of the vein. "The proof is that this patient arrived alive at the hospital, so there must have been a complete rupture," the surgeon said.

The quotes were taken from a new book, "Death of a Princess: The Investigation," by Time's Paris bureau chief, Tom Sancton, and Middle East correspondent, Scott MacLeod.

It took an hour and 45 minutes for the princess to reach the operating room, book reports.

STARR: Ex-Intern Said to Face Subpoena

Continued from Page 1

week. One of her lawyers, William Ginsburg, has said he plans to file a motion in federal court saying Mr. Starr's representatives reneged on a written offer of immunity and asking the court to enforce the offer. The independent counsel's office says no final offer was made.

If the motion is rejected, Ms. Lewinsky, 24, is expected to exercise her constitutional right not to testify when testimony might tend to incriminate the witness. If she does take shelter behind her Fifth Amendment rights, Mr. Starr could then seek to offer her more limited "use" immunity, shielding her only from any prosecution based directly on her testimony.

Mr. Starr has cast a wide net in his investigation, apparently seeking to

build a case against Mr. Clinton that is not dependent on Ms. Lewinsky, whose credibility has been questioned. She herself allegedly says, on one of the tapes secretly made of her talking about a relationship with Mr. Clinton, that she has frequently lied.

In what appears to be the latest of the leaks that has infuriated the White House, Newsweek magazine has reported that Ashley Raines, an Arkansas native who works in the White House Office of Administration, told the grand jury that she heard Ms. Lewinsky talking about an affair with Mr. Clinton.

The magazine reported that Ms. Lewinsky had played for Ms. Raines tape-recorded telephone messages the president allegedly left on the former intern's answering machine.

The report about Ms. Raines was denounced by a White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart, as being part of "a campaign of misinformation and intimidation" by Mr. Starr.

Another report, that a presidential valet had told the grand jury he had seen Mr. Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky alone together, was retracted Monday by The Wall Street Journal. News reports have emerged almost daily citing unnamed people "close to the office of the independent counsel" or "with knowledge of the grand jury investigation."

Mr. Starr has defended the professionalism of his staff, but added that he was concerned about the alleged leaks and would investigate to learn their source. He promised to "take appropriate action" against any offenders.

Some Republicans have suggested that the leaks might have been preemptively released by the White House with timing calculated to lessen their impact.

Ms. Lewis, the White House communications director, denied that.

"You will not find any evidence that the White House has been the source of unauthorized release of information," she said. "We have not done that. We are under very clear direction from White House counsel that we will not go down that path."

An aide to Mr. Gingrich confirmed, meanwhile, that House Republicans had discussed expanding the staff of the Judiciary Committee if there is a possibility of impeachment proceedings.

"It was a passing acknowledgment that should Starr turn over papers, the committee would need more personnel," said a Gingrich spokeswoman, Christina Martin.

The Capitol Hill newspaper Roll Call has reported that Mr. Gingrich and other Republican leaders discussed drawing on a \$4.4 million fund to help pay for impeachment proceedings.

JUDGE: Her Legal Aide

Continued from Page 1

in his wife's business, Mr. Wright makes no apologies. Asked if his presence in her chambers at the closed meeting last spring was inappropriate, Mr. Wright said, "No, because I wouldn't talk about it."

Since being assigned to the Jones case four years ago, Judge Wright, an appointee of President George Bush, has been criticized by Republicans and Democrats alike. She is also under enormous pressure on other fronts. She is overseeing the complicated Little Rock school desegregation effort. She has also been criticized by legal observers for keeping the convicted felon Susan McDougal, one of Mr. Clinton's partners in the original Whitewater land deal, imprisoned for 17 months for Mrs. McDougal's continued refusal to testify about the president.

In the Jones case, she has been faulted by legal observers for failing to enforce her own gag order despite flagrant and now routine leaks.

Within days of the president's deposition Jan. 17, there were reports that he had admitted for the first time to an affair with Jennifer Flowers. Mr. Clinton's reputed testimony about his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky also became public.

"In private she has fussed to the lawyers about the leaks," Mr. Wright said. "The gag order has served one useful purpose: to prevent the lawyers from commenting on the substance on TV."

Despite criticism of the judge from some Democrats, Mr. Wright believes his wife has been fair to the president. "Clinton should be pretty happy with her," he said.

Judge Wright comes from a long line of prominent local lawyers — father, uncle, grandfather — and was raised in a traditional southern Democratic household. Her husband said she started out as a Democrat herself in the 1960s, working on a couple of local campaigns.

She interned for then-Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt, Republican of Arkansas, in the early 1970s, and was there in 1974 when he was unsuccessfully challenged by a political newcomer named Bill Clinton.

In the 1980s, both Wrights were active George Bush supporters; she led Lawyers for Bush in Arkansas during his 1988 campaign.

Susan Wright's first encounter with Mr. Clinton came in the mid-1970s, when she took an admiralty law course taught by him at Arkansas. In what has become a legendary story, Mr. Clinton lost a pile of exams — including Judge Wright's — and offered all his students a B+. Judge Wright refused — desiring to maintain her A average — and asked to take a different exam.

But she had to negotiate with Mr. Clinton's fiancée, Hillary Rodham, also teaching at the school, according to Mr. Wright, because Mr. Clinton was already out campaigning. She ultimately got her A — and went on to become the first woman to serve as editor of the school's law review.

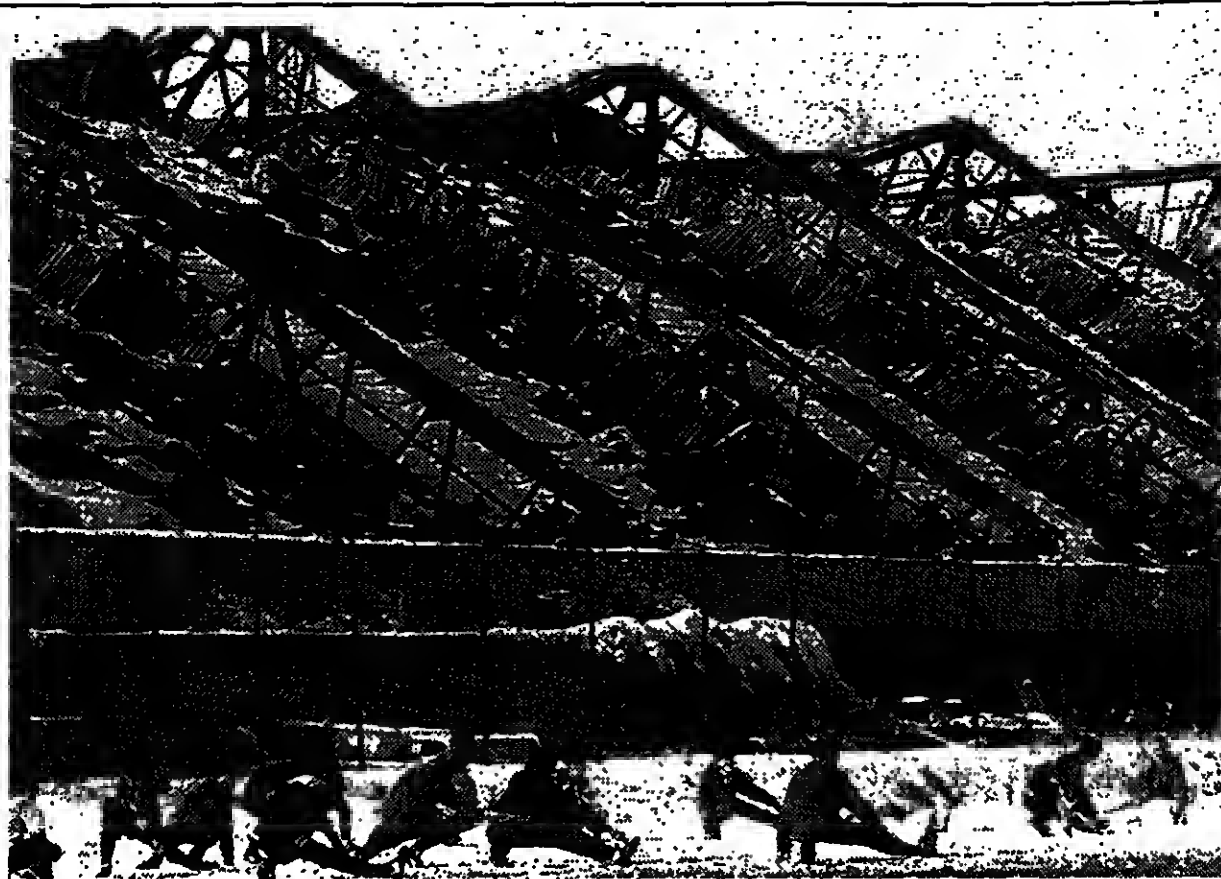
■ Wright's Disclaimer

Mr. Wright said Monday that the Washington Post report exaggerated his influence on his wife's decision-making. The Associated Press reported from Little Rock.

"I don't decide my wife's cases; I never have," Mr. Wright said. "I don't know how my wife will rule."

Mr. Wright said that The Washington Post used remarks he had made off the record for the feature story about his wife, and that it took some comment out of context.

The Post's executive editor, Leonard Downie Jr., said the newspaper stood by the article. "I've not heard anything to question the story," Mr. Downie said. "No such complaint has been made to me. I'd be very surprised if the context wasn't correct."



ANOTHER SARAJEVO OLYMPICS? — A Sarajevo soccer team exercising Monday in front of the Zetra skating stadium, used in the 1984 Winter Games but destroyed by Bosnian Serb shelling in 1992. The governor of Sarajevo canton, Midhat Haracic, wants the city to be the site of the 2010 Games.

IRAQ: U.S. Commanders Request 3,000 More Troops for Kuwait

Continued from Page 1

anticipating a refusal, Mr. Cohen did not ask Saudi Arabia for permission to use its air bases for attack missions.

He said that with two U.S. carriers in the Gulf the U.S. military could do without the Saudi bases.

"We are confident that the Gulf partners will provide the necessary support," he said at a news conference.

Mr. Clinton has committed the United States to impeding Iraq's programs to build weapons of mass destruction and is on course to launch an attack in the coming weeks unless it allows a UN program to destroy such weapons to go ahead.

The extra planes were being sent as the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, put off a visit to Italy and the Middle East, saying in New York that "the discussions and the search for a diplomatic solution have reached a critical stage."

The deputy prime minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, spoke by telephone Monday with Mr. Annan, the Iraqi News Agency

reported. It gave no details of the conversation, but said it had come "in the framework of continued discussions and contacts between Iraq and the international organization."

Mr. Clinton and Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, the sole state so far prepared to join Washington in a military attack, have said they prefer a diplomatic solution to the crisis but will go ahead with a substantial strike if needed.

Mrs. Albright, speaking at the American Enterprise Institute after talks with the foreign ministers of Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic about their plans to join NATO, said she had secured their backing for military action in Iraq.

"They all said they are ready to support us as appropriate should military action become necessary," she said. She did not say whether she meant moral, political or material support.

Unlike the regional and international backing given to the coalition formed in 1990 to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait, Washington has been unable to rally

many countries to its call for military action to stop Iraq's weapons programs.

Although there is almost universal agreement that Mr. Saddam must comply with UN sanctions and stop blocking the teams finding and dismantling the weapons programs, most Arab states will not publicly back the use of force.

Mr. Annan said Monday that he did not intend to visit Baghdad "at the moment." But his spokesman, Fred Eckhardt, said the secretary-general had not ruled out such a trip; rather, he was waiting to see what the Security Council wanted him to do and if "he feels he can accomplish something by going."

"He is monitoring the efforts of the various parties who are seeking a diplomatic solution and he hopes that one can be found," Mr. Eckhardt said.

Mr. Annan said he had postponed a 10-day visit to Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Syria, due to have begun Wednesday after a brief stay in Rome.

Halldor Laxness, Icelandic Author, Is Dead at 95

Reuters

REYKJAVIK — Halldor Laxness, a Nobel Prize-winning author and playwright, died Sunday after having suffered from Alzheimer's disease for several years. He was 95.

Mr. Laxness was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955, the only Icelandic to win a Nobel Prize.

"He was an overwhelmingly important author for Iceland, with more than 60 novels, plays and essays," said Vestinn Olsson, professor of literature at the University of Iceland.

Mr. Laxness began his career as a surrealist novelist, but is best known for his social realism of the 1930s.

"Due to his leftist politics, his reputation suffered substantially in Iceland, especially with the right, and didn't take a different exam."

But she had to negotiate with Mr. Clinton's fiancée, Hillary Rodham, also teaching at the school, according to Mr. Wright, because Mr. Clinton was already out campaigning. She ultimately got her A — and went on to become the first woman to serve as editor of the school's law review.

■ Wright's Disclaimer

Mr. Wright said Monday that the Washington Post report exaggerated his influence on his wife's decision-making. The Associated Press reported from Little Rock.

"I don't decide my wife's cases; I never have," Mr. Wright said. "I don't know how my wife will rule."

Mr. Wright said that The Washington Post used remarks he had made off the record for the feature story about his wife, and that it took some comment out of context.

The Post's executive editor, Leonard Downie Jr., said the newspaper stood by the article. "I've not heard anything to question the story," Mr. Downie said. "No such complaint has been made to me. I'd be very surprised if the context wasn't correct."

recover until he was awarded the Nobel Prize," Mr. Olsson said.

His best-known novel is "Independent People," a two-volume work published in 1931-32. After winning the Nobel Prize, Mr. Laxness turned his hand to plays, which were shown mainly in Iceland.

Rene de Epelbaum, 77, Defied Argentina's Military Junta

BUENOS AIRES (NYT) — Rene de Epelbaum, 77, a founder of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo human rights group and one of its most dynamic members, died Saturday of a heart attack.

In 1977, during its crackdown on leftists, the military dictatorship abducted her three adult children, Luis,

Lila, and Claudio, and presumably killed them. Mrs. Epelbaum offered her home as a meeting place for mothers in the same plight. Soon after, the group of mothers began holding weekly protests in the main government square, the Plaza de Mayo.

Mrs. Epelbaum, who once taught literature, was a fearless and outspoken critic of the military government. Her writings, speeches, and trips abroad helped earn the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo international acclaim. She also is credited with bringing worldwide attention to the atrocities of Argentina's military regime, which relinquished power in 1983.

Dr. Robert Hughes Brisbane, 84, a retired social scientist and historian at

Morehouse College who wrote about the civil rights movement in its early years, died Jan. 23 in Atlanta. In 1984, Morehouse established the Brisbane Institute to promote his political and educational objectives.

William Lambert, 78, a pioneer of investigative journalism and winner of a Pulitzer Prize, died Sunday in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, of a respiratory ailment. A story he wrote helped compel Justice Abe Fortas to resign from the Supreme Court in 1969. His story, which won the George Polk award for magazine reporting, said Justice Fortas took \$20,000 in 1966 from the stock swindler Louis Wolfson while serving on the bench. Mr. Fortas resigned nine days after the story appeared in Life.



The author Halldor Laxness was the only Icelandic to receive a Nobel Prize.

INDONESIA: Suharto Hints at New Measures to Bolster Economy in the Face of Growing Street Protests

Continued from Page 1

erament perplexed over how to restore confidence and begin reviving the moribund economy.

The crisis has prompted public calls for Mr. Suharto to step aside from opposition politicians, a key Muslim leader, academics and retired military officers.

For the second straight day, a mob rampaged through Ende, a coastal town of about 66,000 people on Flores Island, about 1,000 miles east of Jakarta. According to reports reaching here, hundreds of rioters threw stones and damaged houses, shops and vehicles. As with other riots, particularly in East Java, the rioters in Ende vented their anger on Indonesians of Chinese descent, burning at least 16 shops believed to be owned by ethnic Chinese and forcing as many as 70 Chinese-Indonesians to seek shelter in a local police station.

Several hundred security policemen, backed by reinforcements from Jakarta, were trying to restore order on Monday

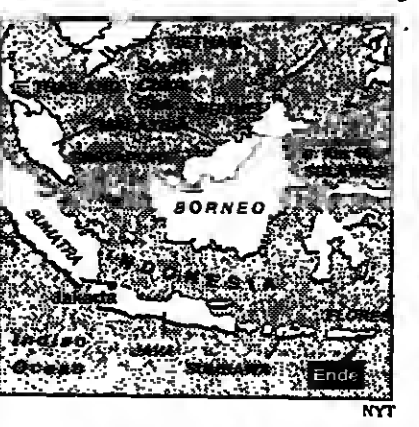
night. A nighttime curfew has been imposed.

The Ende violence — the worst so far in Indonesia's seven-month-old economic crisis — follows a similar outbreak on Saturday in Bima, on Sumbawa Island in West Nusa Tenggara province. There have also been recent outbreaks of violence, usually aimed at Chinese-Indonesians, in East and Central Java, and in South and Central Sulawesi.

The violence has almost exclusively occurred in rural areas far from Jakarta, and in areas still suffering the effects of a lingering drought.

As the mob rampaged through Ende, a more peaceful but boisterous crowd of a few hundred marched in front of the Central Bank here, demanding the resignation of the bank's governor and new action to bring down food prices. The protesters wore red and white headbands, carried Indonesian flags, and chanted "Hungry! Hungry!"

Indonesia's growing unrest unnerved local investors, sending stocks down



about 1 percent and causing the rupiah again to lose value against the dollar in Monday's trading before strengthening slightly at the close.

Unlike past weeks, however, when uncertainty in Indonesia dragged down stocks and currencies across Asia, the

rest of the region on Monday seemed largely to discount the country's crisis.

The opposition leader, Megawati Sukarnoputri, meanwhile, spoke to a gathering of several hundred students at her home in Jakarta to celebrate the end of the Muslim sacred month of Ramadan last week. She urged the students to build a nation with "a clear moral foundation" and to resist worsening ethnic, religious and racial differences — a reference to violence against ethnic Chinese.

Mrs. Megawati, whose ouster by the government from the Indonesian Democratic Party in July 1996 caused widespread rioting in Jakarta, said it was necessary to put the blame for the country's economic problems where it belongs — on the government, namely President Suharto.

She has declared herself a presidential candidate in the March election, but she has virtually no chance of winning because the vote is conducted by a committee of Mr. Suharto's peers. She is the daughter of Indonesia's founding pres-

ident, Sukarno. He was pushed aside by Mr. Suharto 32 years ago after what was described as an abortive Communist coup attempt.

The country's health minister, Suyadi, announced that the government would immediately begin subsidizing the imports of materials needed to manufacture generic drugs and other emergency medical equipment, to stem a rapidly expanding health care crisis.

Mr. Suyadi said the government would set an exchange rate of 5,000 rupiah to the dollar for the imports, and then pay the difference between that and the actual exchange rate which is about twice that amount, or 10,000 to the dollar.

It was unclear from Mr. Suharto's remarks whether he was referring to the plan for the government to subsidize imports — which would be costly and likely to run up huge deficits — or whether he was moving toward a central "currency board" that would peg the rupiah to the dollar at a more favorable exchange rate.



From left: Janet (Gogo) Ferguson at Plum Orchard mansion; First African Baptist Church, where John Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette were married; vast, undeveloped stretch of beach, and the mansion Plum Orchard.

Cumberland Island, the Last Bastion of the Gilded Age

By Linda Hales

CUMBERLAND ISLAND, Georgia — The wedding party of famous friends slipping across the dunes had all the makings of a Vanity Fair sketch — society, culture, history, style. Controversy and politics weren't far behind.

Heading for the endless white sand beach to witness vows as the ocean thundered were the actress Isabella Rossellini, the feminist writer Susan Faludi, John Hersey, son of Papa, plus others with connections far beyond this outpost of civilization.

No, they were not guests at the marriage of John Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette. That low-key, high-profile event 17 months ago gave a blast of recognition to this unadorned stretch of sand, marsh and forest. But this was the earlier wedding of an island royal: Janet (Gogo) Ferguson, descendant of a Carnegie steel baron who once owned all the eye could see. (Europe-ified opulents wrap themselves in couture, but Ferguson's photo album records New World protocol as bare feet and sandals.)

Ferguson, a 46-year-old jewelry designer, is a glimmer of Old Money in an enclave that bears stark witness to the passing of the Gilded Age. She is also a point person in the current controversies over preserving her family's legacy on the island, notably an uninhabited mansion called Plum Orchard.

"When I start seeing my heritage fall in, I can't sit back," she says.

CARNEGIES wielded power on this 18-mile-long (29-kilometer) barrier island for a century or so, along with related Rockefeller and the Candler of Atlanta (who founded Coca-Cola). But the dispersal of fortunes, the rise of the green movement and the lure of a picture-perfect vacation have brought change to this paradise isle.

"That kind of wealth is gone," says Ferguson. "Half the family comes down once a year."

Over the past quarter century, as resorts and developments proliferated up and down the Atlantic coast, these families sold off land to the national park system. Most reserved lifetime rights to the mansions and cottages their forebears had built before income tax. But the island is destined to revert to wilderness at some indefinite point in the future, a topic that turns tempers tropical in south Georgia.

"If you're interested in writing a novel, you've gone to the right island," says Representative Jack Kingston, Republican of Georgia, in whose district the island resides. "It's a Peyton Place full of intrigue."

In the latest round, Kingston is pushing a \$19 million cash-for-Carnegie land swap that would save federal funds, put Candler back in their island mansions for good, and thoroughly annoy conservationists.

Just an hour from the posh golf resorts of north Florida, Cumberland Island has the otherworldly exoticism of a fashion shoot staged in, say, the Amazon. It is lush with gnarled live oak and saw palmettos, wild horses and ibis in flight, and such eerie scenes as a weather-beaten duck-hunting cottage half swallowed by migrating dunes.

The nearest fashion statement is Ferguson's jewelry. She preserves nature in silver and gold wax-cast baubles — earrings shaped like raccoon bones, bracelets of rattlesnake vertebrae — which she sells on Martha's Vineyard. (Hillary Rodham Clinton has a "power jewelry" necklace of armadillo scales, she says.) Ferguson is godmother to Nicole Miller's child, which explains the presence of Miller's silk ties in her studio, the only "shop" in the wilderness.

Only a few dozen people reside in an area one-third larger than Manhattan. There are no parking lots, no signs, no noise. Only residents can drive the single sandy spine of road. Public access is controlled by ferry. Most hikers are off island at nightfall.

The only place to stay is Greyfield, a 1901 Southern-style mansion little changed from the era of Ferguson's great-grandmother, Margaret Carnegie. It welcomes guests like well-heeled friends of the family. The register records the recent stay of Holly Hunter, but few will talk about celebrity visitors like Jimmy Buffett, Jimmy Carter, Sam

Nunn, ambassadors of the Kennedy clan. A very private landing strip does exist. "You have to come in once and buzz the wild horses off the runway," says Ferguson. "It's like Africa."

On a tour, she stops at the family cemetery. Carnegies and Rockefellers are enclosed in Tiffany gates. But the spiritual heart of the compound — the 44-room, tarred Castle Dungeness built in 1884 — is a statuesque ruin from a fire in 1959. The indoor squash court, pool and gym are still collapsing. A row of vintage autos is rusting under the pines.

To the north, the sprawling 1898 Greek Revival-style house called Plum, once the scene of dazzling dinners and now a ward of the park service, is under siege from salt air. In the past decade, the house has cost the park service more than \$700,000 on restoration. For about \$5 million, Denis Davis, the park superintendent, says, the right candidate could win a 50-year lease — and a foothold in the Gilded Age.

BEFORE the turn of the last century, Ferguson's great-grandfather Thomas and his brother Andrew controlled 25 percent of the U.S. steel business from their barony in Pittsburgh.

Thomas and his wife, Lucy, joined the fashionably rich of their era, who flocked to the Atlantic to build winter retreats. After Dungeness, Lucy built five houses, one for each child, among them Plum and Greyfield.

That any of this remained undeveloped into the 1960s was due to a family trust. After it expired, a developer briefly acquired land and planned a resort. That's when heirs were galvanized. To preserve the land, they gave much of it over to the National Park Foundation, creating Cumberland Island National Seashore. But some heirs are still cashing out.

"It's very frustrating to me," says Ferguson. "I can't imagine selling one inch of this place. My grandmother didn't set this up for that purpose. I don't have that right to sell."

Plum Orchard shows the risks of government oversight. Built in 1898, it is the grandest of extant dwellings and was among the first to go. The roof is hold-

ing over Tiffany turtleback lamps, carved woodwork and intricate wallpaper. But exterior paint is peeling, a balustrade is damaged, the indoor pool sits empty. No plan has been approved for its use.

One of the guests at Ferguson's beach wedding was the philanthropist Howard Gilman, who offered his nearby plantation to Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project. Ferguson may have envisioned something similar when she proposed an artists' colony for Plum Orchard. As many as 15 people could have lived and worked in isolation, dis-

tracted by an occasional armadillo crossing the lawn, or the splash of an alligator.

She formed a foundation, putting her old friend Kennedy on the board along with Rose Styron, wife of the author William Styron and godmother to her daughter. But it was too much of a party for wilderness advocates, park officials say.

"I think they thought I was doing another Sedona," Ferguson says, referring to the New Age arts community in Arizona.

Two other proposals were rejected

recently, one for a bed and breakfast, the other a youth hostel. Neither would have preserved the period interiors. Neither had adequate funding.

"We are led to believe we are one of the last developed barrier islands in the world," Davis says. "This one is a natural treasure overlaid with fascinating history."

He is still looking for someone interested in both, preferably someone "with cash in hand."

Linda Hales is home and design editor of The Washington Post.

BOOKS

A CERTAIN JUSTICE

By P.D. James. 364 pages. \$25. Knopf.

Reviewed by Mark Baechtel

IT'S easy to see what's so addictive about mysteries. They revolve around murders, usually — those upwelling of the id that give rise to endlessly interesting speculation. They offer us the guilty pleasure of looking on as the darkest human motives and acts are explored. Dirty secrets emerge and are articulated: the author unearths and lays before us the mare's nest of desire, fear, vendetta, ambition, envy and simple greed that lies in the hearts of even modest widows, prim lawyers and duty-obsessed clerks.

And if this package isn't enough, it comes wrapped in the added pleasure of intellectual exercise. As we read, we watch over the investigators' shoulders, trying to beat the writer to the revelation. A mystery is a battle of wits, and we depend on the writer to fight fair in unwinding the skein of her tale. If she doesn't — if she's too coy with the revelation of vital information, if she brings a heretofore unexplored villain out of the wings at the end or otherwise clanks too obviously the machinery of her contrivance — we have a right to complain.

On most of these points, P.D. James is irreplicable. The machine that is "A Certain Justice," her 14th work of fiction, which along smoothly for almost its entire length, James begins the book nervously by telegraphing her intention to kill a prominent and restless London lawyer "four weeks, four hours and fifty minutes" into the action. This translates to roughly a hundred pages — a bit less than a third of the novel's length — during which James skillfully sketches in the details of her victim's life, fleshes out secondary characters and, by allowing us to look on as the lawyer interacts with them, establishes the suspects.

There are plenty of these. The future corpse, Venetia Aldridge, is a criminal lawyer of large talents and small personal charm, working at a venerable London firm. As the early story unfolds, as she tries to save a young lower-class tough who is accused of murdering his prostitute aunt, we learn that she is in a position to ruin a number of professional lives, and is of precisely the temperament to do it. She wins her case, and the plot thickens when, on being freed, her client promptly forms an attachment to her daughter, Octavia, whom she's neglected in favor of her career and who is disposed to do whatever will discomfit her mother. We look on as Venetia schemes and manipulates, trying to bring a swift conclusion to the romance.

Delaying the murder this way rather than opening the book with a body on the floor allows James — and, by extension, her readers — to do a good deal of what amounts to cultural anthropology. By the time the lawyer is murdered — discovered in her locked chambers frozen in a particularly gruesome

tableau — we thoroughly understand her, her world and her colleagues.

It is also after the character becomes corpse at last that the book's real protagonists — Inspector Adam Dalglish and his crew — arrive on the scene. Dalglish — published poet, head of a highly specialized investigative unit at Scotland Yard, man of high professional standards and higher personal walls — moves with grace and acumen through the blood-soaked crime scene, guiding his more volatile staff through the interviews that unweave the tangled web of multiple deceit and mixed motive in which the lawyer's corpse is caught. Some complaints ought to be made: Information delivered in dialogue that is clearly for the benefit of the reader, not

the investigator. A long and over-literary letter that one of the main suspects writes, ostensibly to confess to a clergyman but more obviously to tie a oar bow around the package of one part of the crime while further muddying the waters for us. A secondary character who appears briefly and, it seems, primarily to add to the body count, and a twist at the end that appeared a bit too clever.

Still, these objections did little, ultimately, to mitigate my admiration of James's skill in delivering a thriller that dissipated the dreariness of a winter weekend while also engaging in philosophical speculation.

Mark Baechtel, a writer living in Iowa, wrote this for The Washington Post.

CHESS

By Robert Byrne

GRUENFELD DEFENSE

White	Black	White	Black
New	Comp	New	Comp
1 d4	Nf6	19 b3	b6
2 c4	Nc6	20 Kg1	Bf8
3 Nc3	d5	21 Kh1	Bc5
4 cd	Nd5	22 Qd3	Qf6
5 e4	Nc3	23 Ng1	Qe2
6 bc	Bg7	24 Nf3	Bd6
7 Bc4	c5	25 Qa6	Rf8
8 Ne2	0-0	26 Ng5	Qe3
9 b4	Nc6	27 Ne6	Qc2
10 Bb3	Bg4	28 Rg1	Rf7
11 B3	Nc5	29 Ng5	Re7
12 B7	Rf7	30 Rf1	Qc3
13 f3	Rf1	31 Ne6	b6
14 Kf1	cd	32 R6	Kf7
15 cd	e5	33 Kf2	Rd7
16 e5	Nc4	34 Rd8	Bc7
17 Qd3	Nc3	35 Rd7	Qd4
18 Qc3	Qb4	36 Qb7	Qd4
		37 de	Resigns

In the Grandmaster Open Tournament in Groningen, the Netherlands, the Exchange Variation of the Gruenfeld Defense sets in sharp relief, after 6 bc, the classical white pawn center against the hypermodern black strategy of counterattack from the wings.

The point of 10...Bg4 is subtle; after 11 B3 Na5!?, White can retreat with 12 Bd3, after which 12...cd 13 cd Be6 14 Re1? Bc2 15 Qa4 Be6 16 d5 Bd7 17 Qb4 e6 18 Ne3 cd 19 Nd5 gave White enough positional compensation to make a draw in the game. The Gruenfeld almost cannot be played by either Black or White without one pawn sacrifice or another.

During the last half-century, Black's gambit with 11...Na5!? 12 Bf7 Rf7 13 f3 Rf1 14 Kf1 has maintained itself well. White's extra pawn, at g4, is doubled and thus not a full pawn value and the white king is poorly placed.

After 16...Nc4, it has generally been held that White needs to keep his bishop with 17 Bf2, but Aleksandr Nenashv, a grandmaster from Uzbekistan, apparently reasoning that the white bishop,

though strong, is no better than the active black knight, tries to catch up in development with 17 Qd3! and allow the 17...Ne3 18 Qe3 exchange.

After 19 h3, Stuart Conquest, an English grandmaster, could perhaps have tried 19...Bb6 20 Qd3 Rf8 21 Kg1 Qf2 22 Kh1 Be3 with the idea of 23...h5 24 gh g5!?, planning 25...g4. It's not clear, however, whether Black can succeed after 23 Ng1.

The positioning of the white knight with 24 Nf3 guarded the white king and also put the e5 pawn under attack. Nenashv had taken over the initiative.

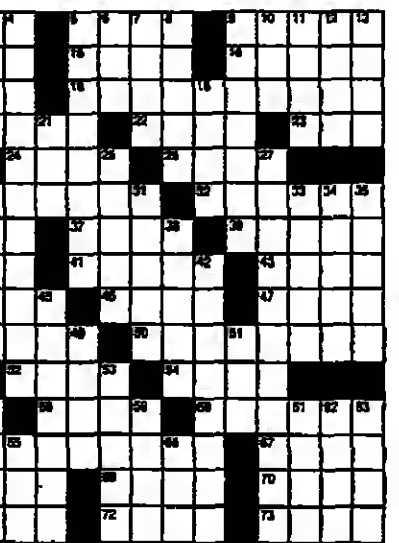
With 25...Rf8, Conquest readied 26...Rf3!, but Nenashv reacted sharply with 27 Ng5! Maybe Conquest should have tried 27...Qd4 28 Rf1 h6 29 Rf8 Bf8 30 Ne6 Qc4 31 Qc8 Qb4 32 Qe8 e4 (32...g5? 33 Qg6 Kh8 34 Qf7! e3 35 Nf8 Qb1 36 Kh2 e2 37 Ne6 Qb7 38 Qf6 Ke8 leads to 39 Qf8 mate) 33 Qg6 Kh8 34 Qf6 Ke8 35 Qf8 Qf8 36 Nf8 Rf8, but 37 b4 b5 38 g5 hg 39 hg b4 40 g6 a5 41 d6 44 d7 45 Ke7 46 g7 wins for White.

After 33 Kh2, Conquest could not play 33...Qe4? because 34 Qc8! finishes the defense. And 33...Re7 loses to 34 Rf7 Kg8 35 de. Best would have been 33...Qc1, yet after 34 Qf1 Qf1 35 Rf1 Nenashv should win the endgame. After 37 d6!, Conquest gave up.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1. Pigmagoon to Mexico
 2. Weather vane turns
 3. It may have its own registry
 4. Lamb's pen name
 5. Champagne bucket
 6. Ped —
 7. Catalogue abbr.
 8. Twins player in "Big Business"
 9. Gasteroid, as berries
 10. Spunk of the ring
 11. Suffix with Japan or journal
 12. French father
 13. Bronx cheer
 14. Models of excellence
 15. "The Crimes of Love" author
 16. Marquis —
 17. List-shortening abbr.
 18. Racial piece
 19. Botany, in a way
 20. Terrence's —
 21. Dog
 22. Region
 23. Lively Highland dance
 24. Parcel (out)
 25. Aspiration
 26. Pizza portions
 27. City on San Francisco Bay
 28. Coup d' —
 29. Late Chinese leader
 30. Attorneys' org.
 31. Soprano's song, maybe
 32. Get ready
 33. Twins player in "Start the Revolution Without Me"
 34. Suggestion part
 35. Part of UHF
 36. Pound of poetry
 37. Skip over
 38. Shelley's "Adonais," e.g.
 39. Tailor's meeting place
 40. Assign an "R," say

- DOWN
1. Rope fiber
 2. Et — (and others)
 3. Kind of jockey
 4. Twins player in "House of Numbers"
 5. Sweetener
 6. Here, to Héloise
 7. The Old Curiosity Shop
 8. Girl
 9. Clothline alternative
 10. Get-ten-quick application
 11. Supermodel
 12. Macpherson
 13. Ivy League team
 14. Bit of force
 15. Warty hopper
 16. Brain-wave test, briefly
 17. Vast, in the past
 18. Twins player in "The Girl in the Kremlin"
 19. Ill-gotten gains
 20. To any extent
 21. Wheel spokes, e.g.
 22. Catch some Z's
 23. Ring around a legion
 24. Gruiter's cousin
 25. January, in Jalisco
 26. Group of eight
 27. Pre-fax communiqué
 28. Vacation spot
 29. Rari's wrap
 30. A wee hour
 31. Scrabble pieces
 32. Chills and fever
 33. Dinger
 34. Chip in chips
 35. Aulike local
 36. "Amvoderel"
 37. Condo division
 38. Tennis's Sampras
 39. Bit of work
 40. Time to remember



© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz

Solution to Puzzle of Feb. 9

HAZE OFFS STAYS
AMES RARE TIDET
MISTRIE OPINE
ASTER IO ESE
SNEAK PLANNER
SAG INN PAIR
EVENER POLARIES
PERU ODES DILE
THREEDLE CRANKS
EILEY BEI GAS
SPARKS GADGE
TAROT DOWN ONSET
ASUAL MAJORDOMO
TIDONE ANDN ELMO
DEMOS NAST DEAL

The 2,600 most traded stocks of the day.
 Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
 The Associated Press.

100

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Printed on Page 16

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Beijing Approves Plant For Royal Dutch/Shell

Project Would Be Biggest Foreign Venture

BEIJING — Royal Dutch/Shell Group said Monday that the Chinese government had approved a \$4.5 billion chemical plant, the biggest-ever foreign-funded joint venture in China, eight years after the first contract was signed. The Anglo-Dutch company will lead construction of an 800,000-ton-a-year ethylene plant in southern Guangdong Province.

"It has been certainly quite a long time. We are delighted about the approval," said Shell's Beijing-based spokesman, Jeremy Frearson.

The Dutch government is planning a ceremony to mark the signing of the contract to coincide with the visit of Prime Minister Li Peng to the Netherlands planned for Monday.

The oil giant has been discussing the joint venture since the late 1980s. Several issues, including technical, management and financial arrangements, and the selection of contractors, still need to be settled, Mr. Frearson said.

Once done, groundwork on the plant would begin by the end of this year and be ready for operation by 2003, he said.

Shell's Chinese partners in the project are China National Offshore Oil Corp., with a 25 percent stake; China Merchants Ltd., with 20 percent; and Guangdong Investment and Development Co., an arm of the provincial government, the remaining 5 percent. Shell will hold 50 percent.

China National Petrochemical Corp., or Sinopec, one of the first partners, eventually dropped out of the consortium, rather than cooperate with industry rivals.

The amended project included the

postponement of an oil refinery. If eventually approved, the refinery would increase total investment in the project to more than \$6 billion, Mr. Frearson said.

China plans to increase capacity for cracking ethylene to 5 million metric tons a year by 2000 and up to 10 million tons by 2010, up from 3.94 million tons now.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Shell-Exxon Plan Approved

Royal Dutch/Shell Group said it and Exxon Corp. had won permission from the British government to spend £233 million (\$380 million) developing the Corvett and Ketch oil fields in the southern part of the North Sea, Bloomberg News Service reported.

Together, the two fields would produce a combined 450 million cubic feet of gas a day, representing 3 percent of the United Kingdom's peak demand level. The first field is to come on stream at the end of this year and the second in the fourth quarter of 1999.

The approval allows Shell and Exxon, which plan to spend \$4 billion developing fields in the central and southern parts of the North Sea, to keep up with gas demand in the region. It also affirms the success of the two oil companies in tapping smaller deposits previously too expensive to develop.

"The discovery and development of Corvett and other small accumulations is a valuable resource which otherwise would have been considered uneconomical," a Shell official said.

Ketch, about 106 miles east of the Yorkshire coast, holds about 390 billion cubic feet of gas and is scheduled to produce as much as 150 million cubic feet of gas a day.



SELL HIGH — A man weighing his family silver at a refinery in Bombay on Monday as he cashed in on a surge in world silver prices brought on by the U.S. investor Warren Buffett's recent appetite for the metal.

Seoul Snips At Power Of Chaebol

Conglomerates Must End Central Planning And Loan Guarantees

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — South Korean policymakers, moving to reduce the overwhelming power of the nation's industrial empires, told the conglomerates Monday that they would have to close the coordination and planning offices that exercise day-to-day control over their far-flung businesses.

Meeting with executives of the 30 largest chaebol, as the conglomerates are known, officials said they wanted the offices disbanded to reduce the overwhelming power of the chaebol over the economy and force them to cut costs.

An emergency committee of officials charged with restructuring the economy set next Saturday as the deadline for the chaebol to submit their plans to close the offices.

At the same time, the committee told chaebol planning officials that it would introduce legislation that would outlaw the system of cross-guarantees of loans on which the chaebol have relied for years to expand their groups and go into new markets. A key adviser to President-elect Kim Dae Jung also said small shareholders would be allowed to file class-action lawsuits against companies.

"From March 1, new cross-payment guarantees will be totally banned," said Lee Hun Jae, a senior official on the committee. "At the same time, both banks and conglomerates engaged in such activities will be punished under new laws."

Mr. Lee also said chaebol executives and their banks would face "criminal punishment" if they violated the proposed law. The National Assembly is expected to pass the law next week, before the Feb. 25 inauguration of Mr. Kim.

A ban on cross-guarantees of loans within a group would fulfill one of the demands of the International Monetary Fund as part of its \$60 billion rescue plan for the South Korean economy. Analysts say cross-guarantees are a major reason why the ratio of debt-to-equity of a chaebol is, on average, 3.8 to 1 — and often far higher.

Unlike most conglomerates in the West, none of the chaebol has a central holding company. A system of tight central control, supported by cross-guarantees as well as cross-ownership of companies within each group, hold a typical chaebol together.

A spokesman for the Federation of Korean Industries, which is made up of chaebol chairmen, said chaebol executives had insisted on having group planning offices "so they can continue

Saving the Supercomputer From the Dinosaurs' Fate

One Man's Battle for the World's Fastest Machine

By John Markoff
New York Times Service

SEATTLE — In the arcane world inhabited by the builders of the world's fastest computers, Burton Smith is the last man standing.

A large rumpled man who speaks at a measured pace, Smith is a throwback to an era when men like Seymour Cray, Steve Chen and H. Danny Hillis competed to design the fastest, most beautifully handcrafted supercomputers and assembled them painstakingly, one by one.

But Mr. Cray's first company, Cray Research, was acquired by Silicon Graphics Inc. in 1996, and his second company, Cray Computer, founded when he died from injuries suffered in an automobile accident in 1996.

Mr. Hillis's Thinking Machines Corp. and Mr. Chen's Supercomputer

Asia Prompts a Cut in Chip-Sale Outlook

SAN JOSE, California — The market-research company Dataquest Corp. lowered its forecast Monday for worldwide semiconductor sales to \$160 billion by the end of 1998, citing Asia's financial crisis.

Dataquest earlier forecast that sales would reach \$175 billion by year-end.

Dataquest, a unit of Gartner Group Inc., said its formal forecast for the semiconductor market would be completed in April. The company said the volatile situation in Asia had caused it to re-evaluate all the markets in the semiconductor industry.

"In 1998, worldwide electronic equipment production will likely decline from our previous forecast of \$1,009 billion to \$953 billion," said Joe Grenier, vice president and director of Dataquest's Semiconductor Devices programs.

"This means that 1998 electronic equipment production will grow only about 3 percent instead of the 9 percent previously forecast. 'Solely because of the decrease in electronic equipment production, the worldwide semiconductor market is likely to decline about \$10 billion from our earlier forecast.'"

In addition, the semiconductor forecast could be further reduced by \$3 billion to \$5 billion because of the potentially lower costs of manufacturing dynamic random access memory chips in South Korea and the devaluation of that country's currency, the won, Dataquest said.

A lower cost of manufacturing would result in lower market prices for DRAM chips. A 1998 semiconductor market of \$160 billion would represent growth of 7 percent this year, compared with a previous forecast of 17 percent growth, Dataquest said.

Throughout 1997, D-RAM chips were priced only a little above their manufacturing cost, the company said.

"Going into 1998, Dataquest sees a continuing overcapacity, forcing manufacturers to continue their efforts to keep prices low to win the fight for their share of their customers' business," said Jim Handy, director and principal analyst for Dataquest's Memories Worldwide program.

U.S.-Japan Joint Venture Ends

Hitachi Ltd. of Japan and the U.S. computer maker Texas Instruments Inc. decided to liquidate their microchip joint venture, Twinstar Semiconductor Inc., because of "severe financial pressures," Agence France-Press reported from Tokyo.

Hitachi and Texas Instruments said in a joint statement that "unprecedented and unforeseen" declines in prices for D-RAM chips had prevented Twinstar from building "adequate cash reserves."

Texas Instruments will buy Twinstar's assets and form a fully owned subsidiary to take over the joint venture's operations, the companies said.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES									
Cross Rates					Libor-Libor Rates				
	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY		USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
Australia	0.69	1.36	0.61	106.45	1-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Canada	0.71	1.38	0.63	108.10	3-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
France	6.55	1.00	0.93	166.37	6-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Germany	1.36	1.00	0.93	166.37	9-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Italy	1.36	1.00	0.93	166.37	12-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Japan	106.45	166.37	106.45	106.45	1-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
UK	0.61	0.93	0.61	106.45	3-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Switzerland	1.36	1.00	0.93	166.37	6-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Sweden	0.93	1.36	0.93	166.37	9-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Norway	0.93	1.36	0.93	166.37	12-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Denmark	0.93	1.36	0.93	166.37	1-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Netherlands	0.93	1.36	0.93	166.37	3-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Greece	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	6-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Spain	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	9-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Portugal	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	12-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Belgium	0.93	1.36	0.93	166.37	1-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Luxembourg	0.93	1.36	0.93	166.37	3-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Austria	0.93	1.36	0.93	166.37	6-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Finland	0.93	1.36	0.93	166.37	9-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Ireland	0.93	1.36	0.93	166.37	12-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Poland	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	1-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Czech	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	3-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Slovak	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	6-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Slovenia	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	9-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Croatia	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	12-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Serbia	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	1-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Bulgaria	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	3-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Romania	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	6-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Hungary	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	9-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Slovakia	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	12-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Latvia	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	1-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Lithuania	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	3-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Estonia	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	6-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Letland	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	9-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Slovenia	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	12-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Croatia	166.37	1.36	0.93	166.37	1-month	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
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Thinking Ahead / Commentary

Does Anyone Need Blair's U.S. Bridge?

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Symbolic bridges are all the rage on both sides of the Atlantic. Bridges adorn the new banknotes designed for the European single currency, the euro, and President Bill Clinton's call to Americans to build a "bridge to the 21st century" has already entered the cliché hall of fame.

Now the Labour government led by Tony Blair says Britain should be a bridge between the United States and the European Union, which, superficially at least, sounds like a reasonable idea.

Although Britain has been an EU member for 25 years, in many ways it remains culturally and philosophically more attuned to the United States than to the Continent.

During his visit to Washington last week, Mr. Blair flaunted his personal closeness to Mr. Clinton. And by showing greater enthusiasm than his predecessors for EU membership, he is finally trying to nudge Britain toward playing the central role in Europe that U.S. administrations have long urged.

But Mr. Blair will have to tread carefully, especially as he is still on probation as a good European in most Continental capitals. Bridge-building sounds innocent enough, but some on the Continent will detect an echo of de Gaulle's warning that Britain would be "an American Trojan Horse" inside the European Community.

It is far from evident that the French or the Germans, or other EU members, feel that Europe needs a British bridge across the Atlantic in order to communicate with Washington. Nor do they necessarily want more American input into EU decision-making.

On the contrary, many EU governments resented recent attempts by Washington to meddle with the EU's enlargement process, especially by pressing for membership for Turkey — a point on which Britain happens to be sympathetic to the U.S. position.

It is not obvious from what materials Mr. Blair's bridge would be constructed. There should, however, be little cause for alarm if all the proposal means is that Britain, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency, would make an extra effort to solve such trans-Atlantic problems as the dispute over U.S. economic sanctions against Cuba, Libya and Iran.

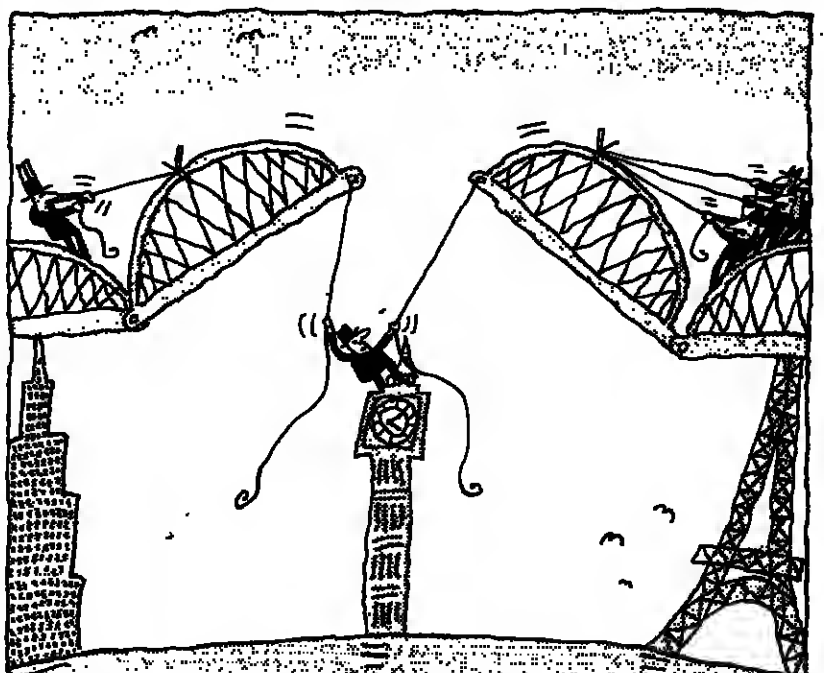
It is also good that Mr. Blair apparently wants to use the EU presidency to put some flesh on the bare bones of the EU-U.S. relationship, as opposed to relations between Washington and individual European capitals. It is almost farcical how little is achieved by the twice-yearly summit meetings between Mr. Clinton and the presidents of the European Commission and the EU Council of Ministers — and how little public attention is paid to them.

Now that the EU is on the verge of introducing a single currency, expanding into Central and Eastern Europe and acquiring many of the characteristics of a continental-scale economy like that of the United States, it is time to upgrade the content and status of the summit meetings.

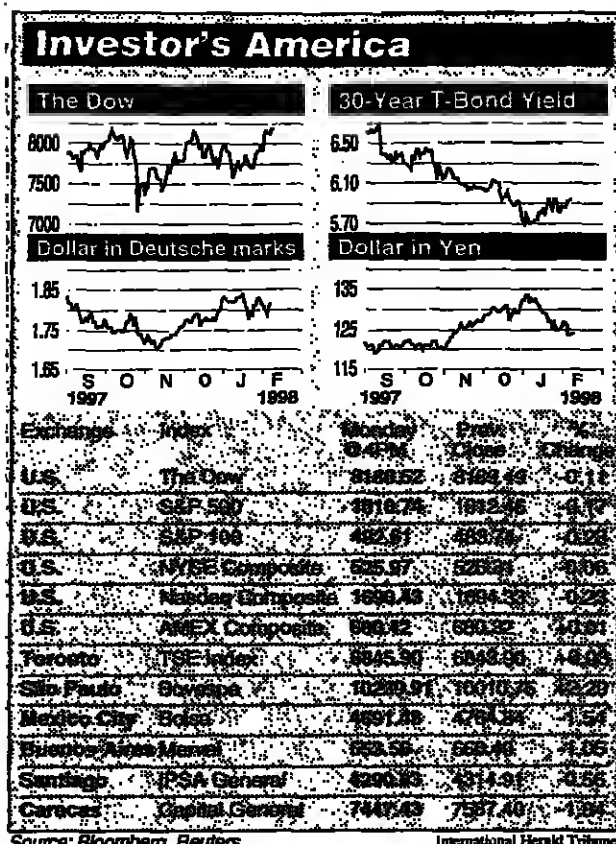
Fresh efforts should also be made to intensify trans-Atlantic trade and investment links, as Sir Leon Brittan, the EU trade commissioner, has recently proposed — not through a preferential free-trade agreement but by reducing barriers in ways that would be open to the rest of the world.

Although Mr. Clinton and Mr. Blair both broadly welcomed such an endeavor last week, it is far from a done deal. The United States is in no mood for major new trade initiatives, even with high-wage industrial allies.

France will resist opening Europe's doors wider to U.S. farm exports and Hollywood movies, especially if asked to do so by a U.S. president in Washington, a British prime minister in London and a British commissioner in Brussels. That is just the kind of bridge a good French person would never set foot upon.



THE AMERICAS



Very briefly:

- Regions Financial Corp., based in Alabama, plans to buy First Commercial Corp. of Arkansas for \$2.7 billion in stock. The purchase would create a bank with assets of \$32.8 billion and 667 banking locations in nine Southern U.S. states.
- Dow Jones & Co. had a loss of \$889.3 million in the fourth quarter after taking \$928 million in charges to reorganize its Dow Jones Markets financial-information service. The loss reversed a profit of \$59.6 million from the like period a year earlier. Revenue rose 3 percent, to \$689.5 million.
- Cuba's jobless rate at the end of 1997 was 6.9 percent, as civilian jobs increased by 66,300 during the year, mostly in nonstate sectors. The rate of unemployment has varied from 6 percent to 7 percent for at least two years, official reports said.
- Hasbro Inc., maker of G.I. Joe action figures and Milton Bradley games, will buy Tiger Electronics Inc., a maker of electronic games such as Giga Pets and Lites Out, for \$335 million plus an undisclosed payment for some equipment and other assets.
- America Online Inc. will raise its monthly access fees by 10 percent, to \$21.95, in April, saying it needed to spend more money to upgrade its network.

Weekend Box Office

LOS ANGELES — "Titanic" dominated the U.S. box office over the weekend with a gross of \$23.2 million. Following are the Top 10 money-makers, based on estimates for Friday through Sunday.

	1. Titanic	2. The Godfather Part II	3. Good Will Hunting	4. Blues Brothers 2000	5. Great Expectations	6. As Good As Dead	7. Spice World	8. The Way the Wind Whistles	9. Deep Impact	10. Deep Impact
Gross	\$23.2 million	\$11.1 million	\$8.1 million	\$6.5 million	\$5.5 million	\$5.1 million	\$4.4 million	\$3.4 million	\$2.4 million	\$2.4 million
Weeks in release	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Euro Dissent Lifts Dollar Against Mark

Market News
NEW YORK — The dollar rose against the Deutsche mark and other major currencies Monday after a group of German academics and economists called for a delay in adopting a single European currency.

The challenge to Europe's plan for a monetary union led investors to take a cautious interest in dollars, particularly in light of the continuing concern about Asian markets, said Stephen Flanagan, chief dealer at Erste Bank.

Before the Asian financial crisis, any hint of a delay in European monetary union would lift the mark. But global uncertainty now highlights the strong U.S. economic fundamentals instead, Mr. Flanagan said.

The dollar also was supported by fears of a U.S. military strike against Iraq if President Saddam Hussein refuses to allow full access to United Nations arms inspectors, traders said. In late trading, the dollar was at 1.8165 DM, up from 1.8083 DM on Friday, and 124.15 yen, up from 124.01 yen.

It also rose to 1.4653 Swiss francs from 1.4585 francs and to 6.0908 French francs from 6.0580 francs. The pound fell to \$1.6295 from \$1.6435.

Earlier in the day, the yen was up slightly on expectations of aggressive Japanese measures to spur the economy before finance ministers from the Group of Seven leading industrialized countries meet Feb. 21. But some investors expressed doubt.

"The Japanese have only disappointed market expectations on these packages," Mr. Flanagan said.

Is the U.S. Isolated on Data-Encryption Stance?

By Jeri Clausing
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration is losing its battle to increase international controls over how reliably computer data can be scrambled to ensure privacy, according to a report that was released Monday by an independent research group.

The White House has been lobbying members of the European Union and other industrialized nations to back its efforts to place controls on "strong encryption," technology for scrambling data so effectively that the code cannot be broken and the content cannot be deciphered without a digital key. Data encryption is used to protect the privacy of financial transactions, medical records and business communications. Washington wants the ability to unscramble all

encrypted messages to keep tabs on criminals. In the report, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a Washington-based research group, says that its survey of 243 governments showed that the United States is virtually the only democratic, industrialized nation seeking domestic regulation of strong encryption.

That finding contradicts the administration's assertion in congressional hearings that it has the support of most nations on this issue.

David Sobel, who directed the study by the research group for the Global Internet Liberty Campaign, a civil-liberties advocacy group, said of the administration: "They make the claim that other countries are accepting the U.S. position on this, then in an attempt to make that a reality, our government launched a worldwide lobbying campaign on encryption policy."

William Reinisch, the undersecretary for ex-

port administration at the U.S. Commerce Department, denied that the study contradicted the administration's assertions. "All the administration has ever said is that there are more countries that go farther than we do," Mr. Reinisch said.

The report comes as a contentious debate on whether to have a strong encryption policy. Currently, the United States controls only the export of strong encryption. But the administration is pushing for a system that would give a third party a set of "keys" to all scrambled data so that law enforcement agencies could gain easy access to otherwise uncrackable computer files.

The FBI is pushing for a mandatory key-recovery system that would guarantee the agency "immediate" access to the communications and data of suspected criminals.

Blue-Chip Rally Takes a Rest

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks edged lower Monday on some profit-taking in bellwether technology shares and other blue-chip issues that had led a rally over the past two weeks.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 8.97 points lower at 8,180.52, while the broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.72 to 1,010.74. Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones by a narrow margin on the New York Stock Exchange.

"We had a good week last week, and a little consolidation is probably not a bad thing, but there is a little bit of profit-taking in the technology stocks," said Marshall Acuff, portfolio strategist at Salomon Smith Barney Inc.

Intel led the technology stocks down, falling 1 3/4 to \$65 after

Dataquest lowered its forecast for worldwide semiconductor demand this year. Applied Materials, which makes semiconductor-production equipment, fell 1 1/4 to \$34.

But Oracle rose 1 1/2 to \$27 1/2 after Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co. raised its rating on

the database software company to "outperform" from "neutral," based on expectations for stronger sales of the company's data-base software.

E*Trade Group, an Internet-based brokerage, rose 3 1/4 to 26 1/2 after the company said it would get prominent billing on Web-TV Networks, which enables television viewers to surf the World Wide

Web. Microsoft, which owns Web-TV, fell 1 1/2 to \$57 1/4.

Health-care stocks also were strong. Columbia/HCA Healthcare rose 1 1/2 to 25 1/2 on reports that the company planned to cut more jobs.

Gulf Canada Resources fell 1/2 to 5 1/2 after J.P. Bryan resigned as chief executive and president of the Canadian oil and gas company. The chief operating officer, Richard Auchincloss, was named to succeed Mr. Bryan, who the company said would spend more time on his private life and investments.

In the Treasury bond market, prices fell as the market braced for \$35 billion in new issues and bonds the Treasury will sell this week. The price of the benchmark 30-year issue closed 10/32 point lower at 102 17/32, taking the yield up to 5.94 percent from 5.91 percent Friday.

The pending sales are "causing a little pressure on the market," Robert Fernald, a bond manager at Society Asset Management, said.

(AP, Reuters, Bloomberg)

U.S. STOCKS

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(AP, Reuters, Bloomberg)

CVS to Become Biggest U.S. Drugstore Chain

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WOONSOCKET, Rhode Island — CVS Corp. said Monday it would buy the Michigan drugstore chain Arbor Drugs Inc. for \$1.48 billion in stock, edging past Walgreen Co. to become the largest U.S. drug chain.

The combined company would have revenue exceeding \$15 billion in 1998, would own 4,100 stores in 25 states and the District of Columbia and would dispense about 12 percent of the retail prescriptions in the United States.

The acquisition will give CVS a foothold in the Detroit market, where it has no stores. CVS said the combination would produce annual

cost savings of about \$30 million. Arbor shareholders will receive 0.3182 to 0.3660 shares of CVS stock for each Arbor share they own. The transaction values Arbor at \$22.45 to \$25.82 a share.

Arbor shares closed at \$22.8125, up 1.25 cents, while CVS finished at \$69.9375, up 6.25 cents.

The purchase comes as drug chains cut costs and seek regional dominance to land more profitable contracts from managed-care companies.

"CVS will be able to expand further in the Midwest," said Andy Wolf, an analyst with Merrill Lynch & Co. "With the large corporations

in Detroit, there's a lot of potential to boost profitability on health care."

Arbor operates 207 stores, predominantly in southeastern Michigan, and had revenue of \$962.8 million in 1997.

CVS is one of the United States' biggest drugstore chains, with 3,888 stores in 24 states and the District of Columbia and 1997 revenue of \$12.7 billion.

As a result of the transaction, CVS said it planned to increase the number of 1998 store openings to 320 from 300. Over the longer term, CVS said it expected to open an additional 150 to 200 stores in Michigan.

(Bloomberg, AP)

PageNet Will Cut 1,800 Jobs in U.S. And Take a Charge

Bloomberg News

DALLAS — Paging Network Inc. said Monday it would cut 1,800 jobs, or 30 percent of its U.S. workforce, after falling prices and competition from new wireless phones cut into its sales and led to a fourth-quarter loss.

The company said it would take a first-quarter charge of \$65 million to \$80 million as a result. It also plans to expand its sales force and consolidate customer service and other operations, saving \$45 million to \$55 million a year and aiming to raise sales by \$75 million.

Paging Network, the world's largest paging company, is struggling as new two-way pagers have failed to take off and prices for paging services have plummeted.

Those market conditions led one rival, MobileMedia Corp., to seek bankruptcy-law protection last year and Metrolink Inc. to report a wider-than-expected third-quarter loss.

PageNet had a fourth-quarter loss of \$42.7 million, compared with a loss of \$51.7 million a year earlier. The company's shares closed Monday at \$14.0625, up 6.25 cents.

Its planned charge would be its second since August, when John Frazee became chairman and chief executive after the two top executives of the company resigned.

A month later, PageNet said it would restate its 1996 and first-half 1997 results and take a \$22.5 million charge for papers it had leased to MCI Communications Corp. that were not returned.

GM Sets Buyback

Bloomberg News

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. said Monday it would buy back an additional \$4 billion of its stock, or 10 percent of the total outstanding, to try to increase the value of the shares, which have lagged those of Ford Motor Co. and the overall market.

The program will bring to \$9 billion the amount of stock GM has repurchased since January 1997. GM closed at \$62.875, up \$2.3125.

AMEX

Monday's 4 P.M. Close
The 300 most traded stocks of the day, up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Chg
AMC	100	22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/4	+1/4
ARC	100	22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/4	+1/4
ARMK	100	22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/4	+1/4
ASPC	100	22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/4	+1/4
AT&T	100	22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/4	+1/4
AVP	100	22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/4	+1/4
AXP	100	22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/4	+1/4
AXS	100	22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/4	+1/4
AXS	100	22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/4	+1/4
AXS	100	22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/4	+1/4
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AXS	100	22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/4	+1/4
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ption Stance?

administration at the U.S. Commerce Department has denied the study contradicts its own findings. The study, however, has been used by the administration to justify its policy. The study confirms that the administration's policy is not based on facts. The study also shows that the administration's policy is not based on facts. The study also shows that the administration's policy is not based on facts.

Page Net Will Cut 1,800 Jobs in U.S. And Take a Charge

DALLAS — PageNet Inc. said Monday it would cut 1,800 jobs in the United States and take a charge of \$10 million. The company said the cuts were necessary to improve its financial position. The company also said it would take a charge of \$10 million to cover the costs of the cuts. The company said the cuts would be completed by the end of the year.

Film Dispute: Europe Wants a Bigger Role

By Edmund L. Andrews
New York Times Service

FRANKFURT — Europe's love-hate relationship with Hollywood has been pushed to a new level as the European Commission moved to break up a joint distribution company owned by three big American movie studios. The attack infuriated the studios, which are now fighting back. The European Commission is pushing for a new system that would give European producers a bigger role in the distribution of American movies in Europe. The studios are arguing that this would be a violation of trade agreements. The dispute is part of a larger trend of protectionism in the European market.

Layoffs Loom At Top Bank In Germany

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

FRANKFURT — Deutsche Bank AG confirmed Monday that it was planning to cut 9,000 jobs within three years to increase profit and said it had no intention to acquire or merge with another bank. The bank's chief executive, Rolf E. Breuer, said the layoffs were necessary to make the bank more competitive. The bank is facing increased competition from other financial institutions in Germany. The layoffs are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Strong Pound Pulls Down Earnings at BA

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — British Airways PLC said Monday that profit fell 29 percent for the quarter to Dec. 31 against the like quarter a year earlier as a strong pound cut into profit margins. The airline said the strong pound was the main reason for the decline in profits. The airline also said it was taking steps to improve its financial position. The airline's share price fell on Monday.

Rebels at Astec Resist Emerson

Reuters

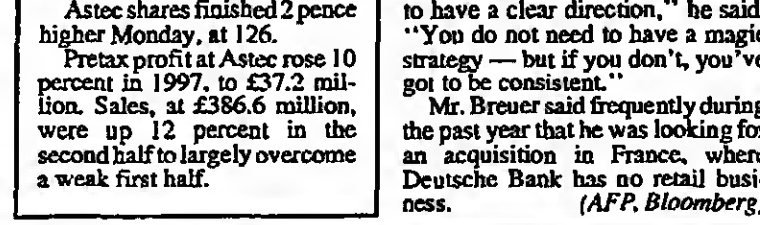
LONDON — Rebel directors and minority shareholders of Astec PLC went on the offensive Monday to keep the British electronics company's U.S. parent, Emerson Electric Co., from taking complete control. The rebels are arguing that Emerson's takeover would be a violation of the company's charter. The company's share price fell on Monday.

Schering Sees Strength in Staying Single as Profit Rises 23%

Reuters

FRANKFURT — Schering AG said Monday that profit rose 23 percent last year and that it could remain a viable, independent company in spite of an expected wave of consolidation in the drug industry. The company said it was not planning to merge with other companies. The company's share price rose on Monday.

Investor's Europe



Very briefly:

- The Bundesbank's president, Hans Tietmeyer, said the Group of 10 industrial nations were taking stock of the impact of the financial problems in Asia but that overall the commercial-banking sector in Asian countries appeared to be sound. The G-10 comprises 11 countries: Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.
- Body Shop International PLC's head of U.S. operations, Steven Kanter, resigned less than two years after being recruited to help the retailer lift slowing U.S. sales. David Edwards, chairman of the U.S. unit, will assume the titles of president and chief executive officer immediately.
- Mzi Khumalo resigned as chairman of Capital Alliance Holdings, a financial-services group. On Jan. 28, Mr. Khumalo resigned as chairman of JCI Ltd., the first black-owned South African mining house.
- Metallgesellschaft AG's net profit rose 7.2 percent in the year that ended June 30, 1997, to 236 million Deutsche Marks (\$131.5 million), as sales grew 15 percent, to 18.2 billion DM. The German metals trading conglomerate, which faced bankruptcy in 1994, said it expected strong results this year and would pay a dividend of 0.20 DM a share for the latest year.
- Vendex International NV plans to takeover Koninklijke Bejerkor Beheer NV for 1.7 billion guilders (\$841.6 million) to become the largest Dutch owner of department stores and specialty shops and as a springboard to European expansion.
- Pizzapress PLC of Britain said net income for the six months ended Dec. 31 rose 54 percent, to £7.1 million (\$11.7 million) as sales rose 55 percent, to £47.6 million.
- The European Union and the United States will try to remove specific trade barriers rather than aim for a free-trade accord between the world's two largest trading partners, the Union's trade commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, said.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Monday, Feb. 9	High	Low	Close	Prev.	High	Low	Close	Prev.	High	Low	Close	Prev.	High	Low	Close	Prev.	High	Low	Close	Prev.	High	Low	Close	Prev.	High	Low	Close	Prev.																										
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Amsterdam					Amsterdam				Amsterdam				Amsterdam				Amsterdam				Amsterdam				Amsterdam				Amsterdam																									
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NASDAQ

Monday's 4 P.M.
The 1,400 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

12 Month	Stock	Div Yld	PE	100 High	Low	Label	Chg
12	AA						
12	AB						
12	AC						
12	AD						
12	AE						
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ASIA/PACIFIC

Investors Seek China Telecom Raises Its Hong Kong Stake

SEOUL — Four foreign investment funds have called for SK Telecom Co. to appoint directors from outside the company, and analysts said Monday this could signal a turning point for shareholders' rights in South Korea.

The foreign funds — TEI Fund, Korea Fund, Oppenheimer Global Fund and Oppenheimer Variable Account Fund — hold a combined 9.85 percent stake in SK Telecom. They told the Securities Supervisory Board on Friday that they wanted to exercise their shareholders' rights in management.

SK Telecom declined to comment on the issue.

"SK Telecom's operations are good, but some of their business practices, such as favoring affiliates for contracts over perhaps a cheaper outside contractor, are questionable," said Lee Jeong Ja, head of research for HSBC James Capel.

But foreign fund managers will face an uphill battle at any shareholders' meeting. SK Group holds 21.85 percent of the company, and state-run Korea Telecom Corp. holds 18.99 percent, compared with foreign holdings totaling 33 percent.

"If they fail this time, they will try again next year when foreign ownership in telecommunications firms rises to 51 percent," Ms. Lee said, referring to the foreign funds.

Richard Samuelson, head of research for SBC Warburg Dillon Reed, called the foreign funds' move an "interesting development" but expressed doubt that it would start a trend.

Still, he said, "It does send a strong signal that if you're amongst those companies where foreigners are interested, you'll need to be mindful of their opinions going forward."

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HONG KONG — China Telecom said Monday it had more than doubled its stake in Hong Kong Telecommunications Ltd. by buying the 7.8 percent stake held by China Everbright Holdings Co.

China Telecom (Hong Kong) Ltd. said it had paid 12.8 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$1.65 billion) to raise its stake in the company, which is 54.2 percent owned by Cable & Wireless PLC of Britain.

In June, China Telecom bought a 5.5 percent stake from Cable & Wireless.

Hong Kong Telecom is Hong Kong's dominant telecommunications provider, although it has agreed to give up its monopoly on international calls as of Jan. 1, 1999. China Telecom is an arm of China's Telecommunications Ministry.

Everbright Sells Its 7.8% of Phone Firm

China Everbright, which is 51 percent owned by the Chinese government, sold its stake at a 7.7 percent discount to the average closing price of Hong Kong Telecom shares over the past 30 days.

Hong Kong Telecom's shares rose 45 cents to close at 17.30 dollars amid speculation that China Telecom would bid for the whole company, but both companies said that was unlikely. Chen Zhaobin, deputy chairman of China Telecom, said the company would keep the stake as a long-term investment.

"It's a very good investment for us when you look at what's available in Asia," he said.

A spokesman for Hong Kong Telecom said the deal was "between two shareholders" and did not affect

Hong Kong Telecom directly. But the "stronger representation" of China Telecom would be good for Hong Kong Telecom, he said.

Jason Billings, an analyst at SBC Warburg, said that while the transfer of the stake did not have direct implications for Cable & Wireless's holding, it put more pressure on the British company's efforts to expand on the Chinese mainland.

He said SBC Warburg believed that Cable & Wireless was "having difficulty" in talks aimed at selling more of its Hong Kong Telecom stake in exchange for entry into the mainland market.

David Gibbons, an analyst at HSBC James Capel, said the main reason for the sale was probably China Everbright's need to free up

cash for acquisitions.

"It has held the stock for nine months and made a good profit," Mr. Gibbons said. "They would not want to hold it forever."

Jerry Wong, an analyst with Seapower Securities, said the deal would ease the pressure of interest expenses at China Everbright as well as generate a sound return on investment.

It also raises the prospect of China Everbright seeking fresh acquisition targets now that it is flush with cash, he said.

Mr. Wong also said that if mainland authorities continued to deny it access to China, Cable & Wireless could look at other options, including selling Hong Kong Telecom shares to a company such as Singapore Telecommunications Ltd.

(Reuters, AFP)



Masao Nishimura, president of Industrial Bank.

Wining-and-Dining Inquiry

Bank of Japan and a Commercial Bank Are Targets

Agence France-Presse

TOKYO — The stain of corruption in Japan's finance sector spread Monday as the Bank of Japan battled bribery accusations and prosecutors moved on a commercial bank.

The string of scandals, stretching from corporate gangster payoffs by all the top brokerage houses to bribery at the Finance Ministry, has led into the corridors of the central bank and Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd.

The Bank of Japan announced an internal investigation after reports that commercial banks had entertained two of its officials at a cost of \$160,000.

On the same day, prosecutors arrested a former director of Industrial Bank of Japan for alleged involvement in a separate and widening bribery case involving the state-owned Japan Highway Public Corp.

Takayuki Kamoshida, a Bank of Japan ex-

ecutive director, said the bank would interview its officials about meetings with commercial banks.

Yasuo Matsushita, the governor of the Bank of Japan, also will voluntarily report any entertainment he has received from commercial banks in the past five years, Mr. Kamoshida said.

The national daily Mainichi Shimbun said Sunday that Tokyo prosecutors had asked commercial banks to report any wining and dining of two central bank officials.

The paper quoted anonymous sources as saying two Bank of Japan officials were suspected of each receiving 10 million yen (\$80,000) in benefits, such as restaurant meals and golf games, over a period of two to three years from 1993.

Mr. Kamoshida said the central bank would interview 600 senior officials and ask them to "voluntarily report" any entertainment received from commercial banks.

"If any conduct, as reported by newspapers, is discovered, we will take appropriate action," Mr. Kamoshida said.

Disciplinary action would range from a warning to a dismissal, but the bank did not plan to set any guidelines as to how much entertainment its officials would be allowed to receive from commercial banks.

In the separate case involving Industrial Bank of Japan, Kozo Umezaki, 57, was arrested for allegedly giving bribes in the form of lavish entertainment to Takahiko Isaka, accounting director of Japan Highway Public.

The bribes were allegedly extended to ensure Industrial Bank of Japan would be picked as underwriter for a foreign-bond issue by the government corporation.

Investor's Asia

Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225
17000	2000	20000
15000	1750	18500
13000	1500	17000
11000	1250	15500
9000	1000	14000
7000	750	12500
5000	500	11000
3000	250	9500
1000	0	8000
0	0	6500
Exchange	Index	Monday Close
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	10,873.15
Singapore	Straits Times	1,543.72
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,685.30
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	17,205.00
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	727.40
Bangkok	SET	530.50
Seoul	Composite Index	564.24
Taipei	Stock Market Index	8,634.61
Manila	PSE	2,050.69
Jakarta	Composite Index	5,292.54
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,257.97
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,348.35
		Prev. Close
		Change
		+3.89
		+0.44
		+1.10
		+0.97
		-0.11
		-1.02
		+2.55
		+1.06
		+0.88
		-1.15
		+0.68
		-0.56

Source: Reuters

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• Foster's Brewing Group Ltd.'s first-half profit fell 1 percent, less than many analysts expected, to 167.8 million Australian dollars (\$112.9 million), as gains in its beer and wine divisions offset a rising tax bill. Sales rose 15 percent, to 5.18 billion dollars.

• Sharp Corp. of Japan doubled prices on its home appliances in Indonesia to offset the depreciation of the local currency, the rupiah, which has lost about three-quarters of its value since August. Sharp said it had also recently raised prices in the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand.

• Canon Inc.'s current, or pretax, profit rose 17 percent last year, to 146.8 billion yen (\$1.18 billion), amid brisk copier sales. The maker of office equipment and cameras said sales rose 10 percent, to 1.535 trillion yen, and net profit rose 46 percent, to 86.2 billion yen. Figures are for the parent company; group results are to be released next week.

• Hitachi Ltd. of Japan and Northern Telecom Ltd. of Canada agreed to jointly develop optical communication modules, which serve as the backbone of computer networks, to try to meet surging demand in the market for equipment that provides access to the Internet, interactive cable-TV, video on demand and other emerging technologies.

• Salomon Smith Barney Inc., a unit of Travelers Group Inc., purchased one of Australia's leading brokerage houses, County NatWest Markets, for 130 million Australian dollars from National Westminster Bank PLC of Britain, which has been selling off brokerage and investment-banking units.

• San Miguel Corp.'s net profit fell 51 percent last year, to 2.96 billion Philippine pesos (\$72.9 million), as the brewer's foreign operations were hit by Asia's financial crisis; sales rose 8 percent, to 67.1 billion pesos, while operating expenses increased 12 percent, to 63.5 billion pesos.

• Isuzu Motors Ltd., an affiliate of General Motors Corp., plans to develop a generation of small pickup trucks for the American company. The Japanese company said the trucks would be produced in the United States, South America and Southeast Asia.

Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters

Seoul's Gold Exports Soar as Koreans Answer Appeal

Agence France-Presse

SEOUL — The government's campaign to collect gold has turned the precious metal into South Korea's second-largest export item, according to data released Monday by the Korea International Trade Association.

The group said the country exported \$696 million of gold in January, a surge of 54.3 percent from a year earlier.

Gold exports made up 16.1 percent of the country's total exports of \$4.33 billion in the first month of the year, the agency said. Electronic goods remained the leading export, the trade association said, accounting for \$1.85

billion, or nearly 43 percent of the total, in the month.

The agency said Daewoo Corp., which was the first South Korean company to take part in the gold-collection campaign, had seen the largest jump, tripling its gold exports from a year earlier to \$520 million in January.

South Korea was largely an importer of gold before the campaign — which asks South Koreans to donate gold items to raise funds to help the country out of its economic crisis — was started in January.

Since then, long lines of people have formed outside banks and other collection points as

citizens have turned in items including wedding rings, lucky charms and sports trophies.

The trinkets, trophies and rings are melted down into ingots and sold for dollars, which are sent to the Bank of Korea.

In January, South Korea collected 165 metric tons of gold valued at about \$2 billion dollars from 2.43 million people, local newspapers reported.

Dealers in Hong Kong said private gold holdings in South Korea were believed to exceed 2,700 tons. The Yonhap news agency said the holdings had a value of \$27 billion to \$30 billion.

COMPUTER: One Man's Battle for the World's Fastest Machine

Continued from Page 13

Walt Disney Co. "Burton is the last independent supercomputer designer."

Supercomputers, defined as the fastest computers available at any given time, were first used for designing nuclear weapons and predicting weather but have increasingly been used in applications ranging from designing drugs to simulating car crashes. But with the end of the Cold War and the decline of government financing for supercomputing and the simultaneous surge in the power of desktop computing, innovations increasingly come first from the PC and consumer electronics worlds.

That has led to a decline in research into new computer designs. The number of companies trying to build the most powerful 64-bit processors needed to drive the next generation of computing has dwindled to a handful.

With the death of Mr. Cray in 1996, many computer designers felt that the final chapter had been written for an industry that only a decade before was widely seen as crucial to the nation's technological survival.

"But the people making those predictions did not reckon with Mr. Smith."

"I'm feeling very good about where we are now in spite of the fact that most people in the computer business think we're out of our minds," he said.

Still, despite his optimism, there are people in the computer industry who are deeply skeptical about Tera's chances for survival in a computer world that is increasingly homogeneous and dominated by a handful of multinational giants.

"The supercomputer industry has been transformed in the last five years," said Larry Smart, director of the National Center for Supercomputer Applications in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. "Only market-driven companies with a strong desktop business are going to be able to survive."

Most executives in the computer industry think that almost all of the fastest computing systems in the first decade of the next century will be based on the 64-bit Merced microprocessor chip being designed by Intel and Hewlett-Packard Co.

But there is a significant market for high-performance computing both in the technical marketplace and for scientific and corporate research. Industries from airplane manufacturing to banking could use ultrafast commercial computers for applications like reservation systems and credit card processing.

International Data Corp. estimates that the market for technical high-performance systems reached \$3.57 billion in 1997, while the Gartner Group is predicting that the total market for high-performance computers will reach \$5

billion this year. Most of those systems will be sold by Silicon Graphics, IBM and Sun Microsystems.

Compared with the sales of these giants, Tera's will be tiny this year. Salomon Brothers Inc. estimates that the company will have \$49 million in revenue in 1998, rising to \$106 million in 1999. It predicts that the company will be profitable this year.

It is Mr. Smith's ability to balance hardware and software that has most impressed many of the leaders in the supercomputing world. Last year, a single processor version of the Tera machine set a world speed record for sorting integer numbers.

The design is based in large part on Mr. Smith's rejection of the idea that any computing problem can be solved best by simply assembling ever-larger numbers of microprocessor chips. Mr. Smith's system is intended to work in a fashion similar to a secretarial pool. As soon as a processor finishes a task, it picks up a new one from a large pool of waiting tasks, ensuring that all of the processors are efficiently used.

Mr. Smith thinks Tera will win commercial orders this year from companies like airplane and automobile manufacturers that run huge simulation programs for each new model. He hopes for other sales to government intelligence agencies and research laboratories.

WON: Snipping at the Chaebol

Continued from Page 13

to work out and implement group-wide restructuring plans as required by the next government.

The emergency economic committee, which includes members of the current administration of President Kim Young Sam along with key economic advisers to President-elect Kim Dae Jung, made plain its view that the coordination and planning offices were vehicles for maintaining the control of chaebol owners and top executives over a group regardless of the wishes of stockholders.

"The most important element is the rights of small shareholders," said Yoo Jong Kuen, a top economic adviser to Kim Dae Jung. "We're going to allow small shareholders to file class-action suits."

One basis for such suits, according to members of President-elect Kim's team, would be the diversion of the manpower and resources of a chaebol company to serve on a coordination and planning office that has nothing to do with the company's own interests.

Coordination and planning

offices for the chaebol generally are located in a company with closest ties to the group's chairman and major owner.

"The chaebol will have difficulty defending their control," Mr. Yoo said.

Analysts said they thought giving minority shareholders the right to question the policies of a company might eventually prove effective. "From a shareholder's standpoint," said Hank Morris, a financial consultant in Seoul, "it's not fair to have a single company spending its resources on other companies even if they're in the same group."

"If you look at it from that viewpoint, what do they get out of supporting the group?" Mr. Morris said. "Now they may be able to do something about it."

Lee Hun Jae, vice chairman of the committee, indicated that the attack on the coordination and planning offices was a key part of the effort at reforming the chaebol.

He said chaebol chairmen should be willing to revise their entire control structure at regular shareholders' meetings.

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SPORTS

The Master vs. the Teenager

Bryant Adds Flash, but Jordan Steers East to All-Star Victory

By Selena Roberts
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A brush with the flu left Michael Jordan's body a bit achy and miffed. And yet, he could still feel the significance of the moment playing out beneath the pinwheel ceiling of Madison Square Garden.

So Jordan was absorbing everything, storing it all in a mental hope chest of sorts, because he was all but certain that the 48th annual National Basketball Association All-Star Game on Sunday night was his last. It is not the hype of this event he will miss if he goes, but the camaraderie and competition.

So he will miss nights like this. Beneath the commercial fluff of this game, there was a basketball court and a challenge. There was the daring teenage plop, Kobe Bryant, who was staring into Jordan's watery eyes. And the 19-year-old kid, the youngest player to start in an All-Star Game, was on the attack.

It was the perfect remedy for Jordan. He watched Bryant's helicopter dunks and playground moves add up to 18 points. But in the end, Jordan had 23 points, a 135-114 victory for the East All-Stars and his third most valuable player trophy.

"He came at me pretty early," Jordan said of Bryant. "I would if I was him. If I see someone that's maybe sick or whatever, you've got to attack him. He attacked. You know, I liked his attitude."

Jordan saw a little of himself in the player so often picked to slip into his place after he retires. And Jordan had to admit it was a fun matchup. So how could he be serious about leaving all this, about walking away with the league's youngsters nipping at his heels?

"I'm very serious about it, actually," Jordan said. "If I can't continue to have fun, then it's not worth playing. If you can't have fun out there with an environment that feels comfortable to you, what's the purpose of playing?"

"How many times do you want me to say it," Jordan continued. "If Phil Jackson is not in Chicago, I'm not playing. I'll say it once more."

Jordan was loud and clear about his intention to retire if Jackson, the Bulls' coach, was not back next season. And yet, there is a sense of denial about his retirement: few people believe he will leave, especially when he is still the best at what he does. Jordan does not leap from the free-throw line to dunk anymore. He is a complete player now, but it was a process.

"Kobe is going to go through the same thing," Jordan said of the second-year Laker. "When you come to these games, it's O.K. to have the creative game, but with good, solid basketball, you'll be able to play with anyone."

Bryant is more flash than fundamentals at this stage, making him the perfect All-Star Game participant. But more than that, Bryant seems to have that certain something that makes him Jordan-like. Maybe it is the telegraphic quality of Bryant, a player who makes teenage girls squeal and high school boys grow their hair high like his.

Bryant is not a starter for the West, yet he was voted to start for the West. It took Bryant to bring what was a somewhat docile crowd of corporate types and celebrities to their feet as he did a 360-degree dunk on a fast break in the first half of a game in which ordinary jumpers brought yawns. Unless, of course, that jumper came from Jordan.

He scored the first points of the game, then took Bryant's dunk and raised him a

ALL-STAR GAME											
WEST											
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	PF	Pts				
Makene	17	2-4	0-0	0-3	2	1	4				
Garnett	21	6-11	0-0	1-4	2	0	12				
O'Neal	18	5-10	2-4	1-4	1	2	12				
Bryant	22	7-10	2-4	1-1	2	1	12				
Payton	24	3-7	0-0	2-3	13	0	7				
Baker	21	2-12	2-2	4-8	0	1	6				
Jones	25	7-10	1-2	2-4	1	1	15				
Robinson	22	3-4	0-0	1-1	1	1	6				
Richmond	17	4-11	0-0	0-1	2	0	8				
Kidd	19	0-1	0-0	0-1	9	2	0				
Duncan	14	1-4	0-0	1-1	1	1	2				
Ven Enst	20	5-14	2-2	1-3	2	0	12				
Trotter	24	4-11	1-2	1-2	24	9	114				
EAST											
	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	PF	Pts				
Hill	30	0-0	0-0	0-3	2	1	15				
Kemp	25	4-10	2-2	2-11	2	0	9				
Melton	19	5-5	1-2	1-7	0	3	9				
Jordan	23	10-18	2-2	1-4	8	0	23				
A-Hardaway	12	3-5	0-0	0-4	2	0	6				
T-Hardaway	17	3-8	0-0	0-1	6	0	6				
Williams	19	3-3	0-0	3-10	1	2	4				
Smith	21	3-7	4-4	2-7	4	2	10				
Miller	20	0-8	1-2	0-0	0	0	2				
Rice	16	1-4	0-0	1-1	0	0	16				
Smith	16	6-12	0-0	2-3	0	0	14				
Walker	15	2-8	0-0	1-3	0	0	4				
Trotter	24	57-109	10-12	13-22	32	12	135				
WEST 33 23-114											
EAST 33 34 34-125											
3-Point shots—West 4-22 (Bryant 3-3 Payton 1-1)											
Free throws—West 4-6 (Garnett 4-4 Duncan 4-4 Richmond 0-2)											
Fouls—East 7-21 (Jordan 11-25 Rice 4-4 T-Hardaway 3-5 Smith 2-5 Hill 1-1)											
A-Hardaway D-T Walker 0-2, Fouled out—Moms.											
Rebounds—West 40 (Duncan 22-28 Jordan 11), East 32											
(Kemp 11, Astute—West 4-4 Payton 13, East 32)											
(Jordan 8), Total fouls—West 9 East 13											

3-Point goals: West 4-23 (Bryant 3-3, Payton 1-3, Van Enst 1-4, Garnett 0-1, Duncan 0-1, Richmond 0-2, Jones 0-7, East 11-25 (Rice 4-4, T-Hardaway 3-5, Smith 2-5, Hill 1-1, Jordan 1-1, Miller 1-2, Kemp 0-1, A-Hardaway 0-1, Walker 0-3). Fouled out: None.

Rebounds: West 49 (Jones, Duncan 11), East 32 (Jordan 8). Total fouls: West 34, East 32.

And it was on. Everyone on the court seemed to clear the way for Jordan to face the future of the league in Bryant.

"I kind of looked over at Jordan and he had this look in his eye," Reggie Miller said. "He was like, 'You're right, they are trying to play this as Kobe going after Michael.' We all took that personal."

The East, which outshot the West, 52 percent to 40 percent, had all the bravado. But Bryant, who hit 7 of 16 shots in 22 minutes, might have had a chance to push Jordan for the MVP award if the West's coach, George Karl, had not seated him for the fourth quarter.

Karl is an alumnus of North Carolina. Jordan is, too. So conspiracy theories were brewing.

"I think I'd better stay away from that one," Karl said. "Best for me not to answer that. Really, it doesn't make a lot of sense. Michael is Michael."

It is not as if there were no other stars, but it seemed as if Jordan's one-on-one with Bryant overshadowed everything else.

"I think there was a little too much of that stuff," said David Robinson, the San Antonio center. "It's hard. Some of us mid-generation guys, we're all about trying to win the game and aren't into that one-on-one kind of deal."

But this was an All-Star Game, where it's all about style. So what's a gritty rebounder like the Nets' Jayson Williams to do?

"Just have fun," Williams said. "I'm just in awe. I was getting on the bus with the guys today and thought, I ain't never been this close to \$1 billion in cargo."

There was concern that Jordan would be a no-show. On Thursday, Jordan dropped a golf game in Las Vegas, Nevada, because he started feeling ill. By Saturday, he had a fever of 101 degrees Fahrenheit (38.5 centigrade) and was listed as questionable for the game.

"If it had been yesterday," he said, "I wouldn't have been able to play. I spent the whole day in bed yesterday so I could get up and play."

By being out, he avoided being peppered by questions until Sunday night. Why would he quit now? Why can't he be a Knick? Although Jordan was sitting in the locker room usually reserved for Patrick Ewing, he was sure he was never going to be a permanent fixture in the Knicks' locker room. But wait, didn't he say he would consider being a Knick?

"The only thing I ever said was, 'If I was single,'" Jordan said. "And I'm not single, so."

So this was it, apparently. Three All-Star Game MVP's and out.

"People don't want to see it," Jordan said. "Or people just don't want it to happen. This day was going to happen sooner or later."

If anyone believed Jordan, they were doing as he was on Sunday night: soaking in every sight and emotion of his last All-Star Game.

Players from the East and West seemed to sense this. After he received the MVP trophy, the All-Stars greeted Jordan as he left the floor. Some hugged him, others patted him on the head.

"Everyone respects him," Anfernee Hardaway said. "I think this was it for him. This was his last one. Everyone will remember this."

Michael Jordan, right, challenging the Lakers' Kobe Bryant for the ball.

Kobe Bryant, left, the youngest All-Star, joking with Jazz's Karl Malone.

Garfield

Beetle Bailey

Blondie

Friends

Calvin and Hobbes

Wizard of Id

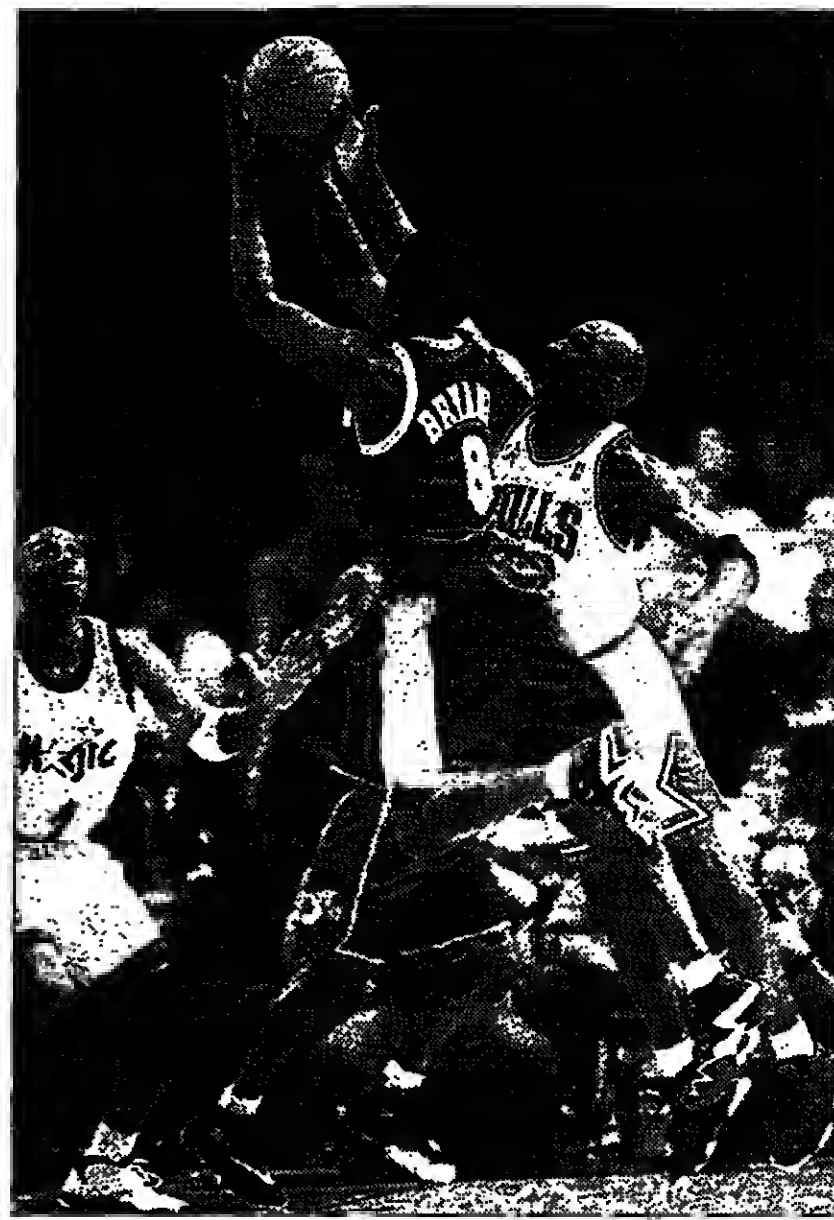
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The Urban Simplification Program

Friends

Friends



Michael Jordan, right, challenging the Lakers' Kobe Bryant for the ball.

Tension Rising in NBA
In Clash of Egos and PayBy William C. Rhoden
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Not far beneath the youthful glitz of the All-Star Game Weekend, war is brewing. The partnership with which the National Basketball Association pulled itself out of ashes in the early 1980s is deteriorating into an ego-tinged power struggle.

Even Michael Jordan, the symbol of what the game has become, is not immune. If young players were unclear about the owners' determination to reel behavior and salaries closer to shore, they have to look only at Chicago's take-it-or-leave-it attitude toward Jordan's threat to quit.

"I don't sense that this has gotten to the point where there's animosity," Dave Checketts, president of Madison Square Garden, said before the All-Star Game on Sunday night. "But there is real concern on everybody's part about what we're doing to our business. About the delicate balance between being a business and being something that's so public, the creation of heroes, love of the game, adoration of fans."

That balance, between the amount of money changing hands and a perceived lack of good behavior — on everybody's part — has the ability to hurt what we're trying to do," he added.

The coaches, with the owners' blessings, used this game to send messages. Rod Strickland, the assists leader,

was missing. Dennis Rodman, the league's best rebounder and defender, was missing. Allen Iverson, the Sixers' flashy second-year star, was missing.

There are no signs that the majority of players understand that the owners are taking collective aim at their wallets. And the players, caught up in the day-to-day grind, aren't collectively focused on a possible lockout after the season.

"I don't think there's enough unity," said Anfernee Hardaway, the Orlando guard. "Only a handful of guys are making over \$10 million who really don't have to be involved. Then you have the guys who are making the minimum who have to really go with what the league says if they want to get their money."

According to both the league and the players' association, an unprecedented number of players are making the NBA minimum salary, under \$300,000. Fewer players can afford a lockout.

"I don't think there'll be a strike because they just signed a \$3 billion TV contract. Somebody's got to play," said Jayson Williams of the New Jersey Nets. Informed that under the terms of that contract, the NBA will receive television revenue in the event of a strike, Williams said, "Then the NBA needs to be applauded."

So what about the partnership? "In had times you tend to circle the wagons together," the NBA commissioner, David Stern, said. "When times are very good, there are splits."

Carolina
Gets Tough
Victory and
Goes to No. 1

The Associated Press

North Carolina needed two overtimes to become the No. 1-ranked team in college basketball.

The Tar Heels took over the top spot after beating Georgia Tech, 107-100, Sunday in double overtime behind Shammond Williams' career-high 42 points.

North Carolina, ranked No. 2 last week, routed then-No. 1 Duke by 24

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

points Thursday. But the Tar Heels had a tough time in Atlanta against unranked Georgia Tech, which almost won at the end of the first overtime with a tip-in by Michael Maddox that came just after the buzzer sounded.

"We were lucky to escape that first overtime," said North Carolina's coach, Bill Guthridge.

"Makhtar Ndiaye gave our team a real good pep talk going into the second overtime. I think we played a lot better and were really into it," he said, referring to North Carolina's outstanding senior.

Williams scored 12 points in the second overtime for the Tar Heels (24-1, 10-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), who vaulted to No. 1 in The Associated Press poll Monday. He made 8 of 11 shots from 3-point range and was 12-of-12 from the foul line.

"Williams was absolutely sensational," Tech's coach, Bobby Cremins, said, adding that he thought his team played well defensively.

Maddox scored a career-high 32 points for Tech (14-9, 3-7), which overcame a seven-point deficit in the final 1:21 of regulation and forced the first overtime when Maddox made a 3-point shot with 15.9 seconds remaining.

No. 2 Duke 65, North Carolina State 49. Duke rebounded from its loss to North Carolina by beating North Carolina State with a career-high 27 points from Roshown McLeod. The Blue Devils (21-2, 10-1 ACC) beat the Wolfpack (12-10, 3-8) for the sixth time in their last seven meetings in Raleigh, North Carolina. C.C. Harrison led the Wolfpack with 18.

No. 4 Kansas 80, Missouri 70. In Lawrence, Kansas, Paul Pierce scored 29 points and Raef LaFrentz added 22 as Kansas extended its home winning streak to 58 games. Missouri, which upset Kansas, 74-73, in Columbia on Jan. 19, lost for the 20th straight time on the road. Kelly Thames scored 17 points for Missouri (13-10, 5-5).

No. 7 Kentucky 79, Villanova 63. Jeff Sheppard and Nazr Mohammed each scored 18 points and Heshimu Evans had 17 as Kentucky beat Villanova in Philadelphia. Mohammed also had 11 rebounds and five steals for Kentucky (21-3), which has won 11 of its last 12 games. Howard Brown and Jermaine Medley each had 15 points for Villanova (9-12).

No. 20 Massachusetts 73, Xavier 62. In Cincinnati, Charlton Clarke scored 18 points and Massachusetts built an 18-point lead before holding on to defeat Xavier. Massachusetts (17-6, 9-1 Atlantic 10) improved to 5-0 in road conference games. Gary Lumpkin scored 19 points for Xavier (15-6, 7-4), which lost for the first time this season at Cincinnati Gardens, where it had won 16 in a row.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"HOW SAYS YOU WERE IN THE DOORHOUSE, BUT YOU NEVER LEFT CAUSE ONLY ROFF WAS IN THERE."

JUMBLE

THYIC

GOWAN

EPTITE

STRUMI

TEKNIK

TEKNIK

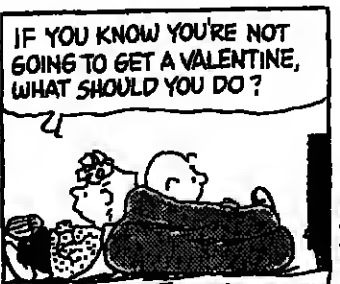
TEKNIK

TEKNIK

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TEKNIK

PEANUTS



IF YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET A VALENTINE, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

PUT ON A GOOD MOPING FACE SO EVERYONE WILL KNOW YOU'RE MOPING.

HOW'S THIS?

VERY GOOD

WIZARD OF ID

NON SEQUITUR

DOONESBURY

THE URBAN SIMPLIFICATION PROGRAM

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WINTER OLYMPICS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1998

PAGE 22

OLYMPIC ROUNDUP

Banned Bobsledder Asks if He Can Stay

BOBBLED Michael Dionne, an American bobsledder who failed a test for a banned stimulant, asked a sports arbitration panel Monday to allow him to stay in the Olympics, even though he cannot compete.

Michael Dionne, a pusher on the No. 3 U.S. four-man sled, went before the International Court for Arbitration in Sports to appeal his three-month ban for ephedrine.

The urine sample was collected at a World Cup meet in Calgary in November. Dionne's three-month suspension is retroactive to the date of the test, so he will be eligible to compete Feb. 22, the last day of the Games. He told the panel that he had inadvertently taken the drug as part of a cold medicine and asked that his suspension be wiped out.

Dionne had been granted a stay of execution, which allowed him to march in the opening ceremony Saturday. He will not be able to compete even if the suspension is overturned, because he has been replaced in the sled and the deadline for roster changes has passed. (AP)



Toturo Kobayashi, 8, watching the speed skating on Monday wearing a Viking hat decorated with a Norwegian flag.

Chinese Player Hurt

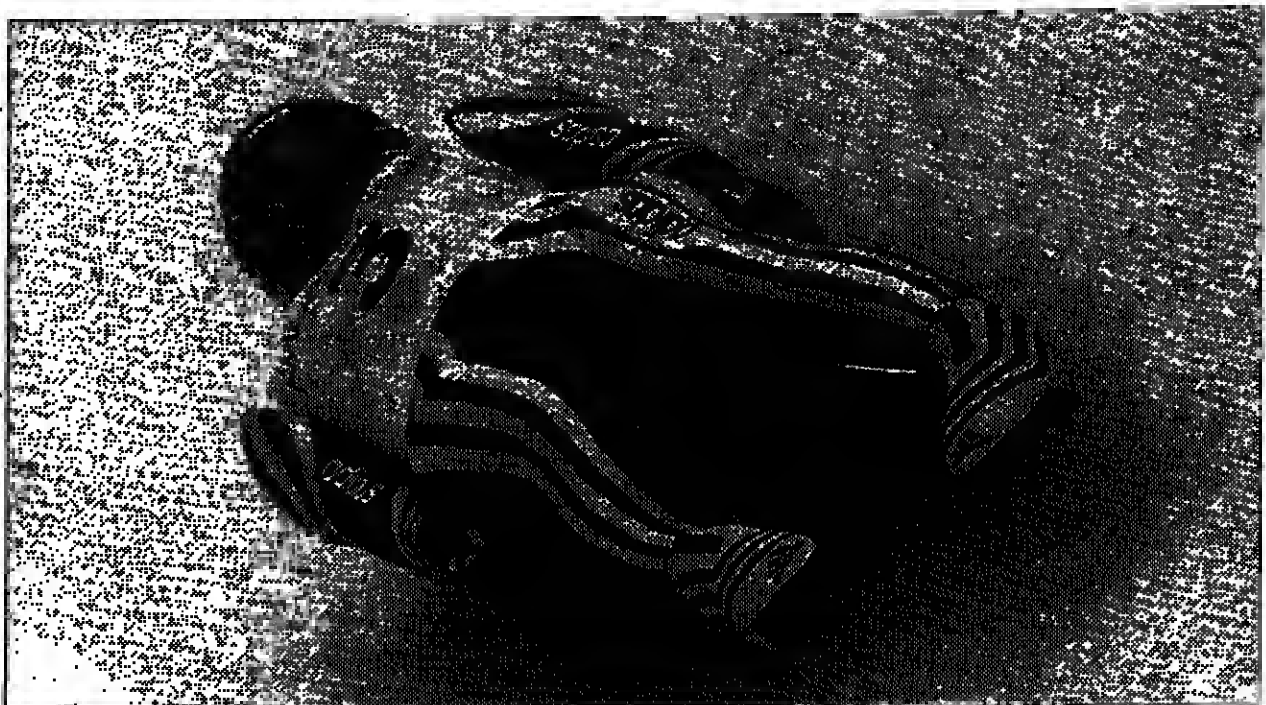
ICE HOCKEY Gong Ming, a Chinese defenseman, slid into the boards behind his goalie and had to be carried from the ice on a stretcher in the third period of the game between China and Canada.

The 5-foot-7, 150-pound Gong was chasing down a loose puck and lost his footing.

The nature of his injury wasn't immediately known, but she appeared to hit the boards first with her hip, then her shoulder before rolling onto her face. (Reuters)

The Big Question...

CURLING "You know the question is going to come up, so you prepare yourself for it — pretty much for the rest of your life." Stacey Lapis, a member of the U.S. women's Olympic curling team, on being asked repeatedly, "Just what is this sport?" (LAT)



Georg Hackl making his third run in the huge competition Monday in Nagano. He again emerged victorious.

Cheerful Bavarian Claims 3d Gold

Hackl Extends Olympic Luge Streak With New Boots and Faster Sled

By Christopher Clarey
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — To the untrained eye, luge resembles a lottery on ice with its very high speeds and nearly identical times. But how often does anyone win the lottery three times in a row?

Georg Hackl may indeed be a fortunate man, but the third consecutive Olympic gold medal that he won Monday in men's luge was no coincidence. "He is the strongest person in the head that I have ever met," said his coach, Thomas Schwab.

"He's always smiling," said Adam Heidt, an American luger who finished ninth. "Luge is kind of like a poker game. You can't let anyone else know what you've got, and he's great at that."

What Hackl has is a superior temperament and superior equipment, and that is not merely a reference to his colorful, controversial new booties. A trained metalworker from Bavaria, Hackl built his first sled at the age of 16, and at the age of 31 he apparently builds and drives them better than ever.

Hackl's postoperative back has hurt his "start" times. The course that supposedly favored heavier sliders, Markus Prock, the Austrian who finished just 4 handclap behind Hackl in the last two Olympics, produced a Herculean but ultimately Sisyphean effort. In spite of all this, Hackl's performance on Nagano's Spiral track was the most dominant of his Olympic career.

Over the course of the two-day competition, the German became the first Olympic champion to record the fastest time in each of the four runs, and his combined time of 3 minutes 18.436 seconds put him 503 one-hundredths of a second ahead of the silver medalist,

Armin Zoeggeler of Italy; 657 one-hundredths of a second ahead of the bronze medalist and fellow German, Jens Mueller, and 1.22 seconds ahead of Prock, who added a disheartening final paragraph to his litany of Olympic woes by bumping a wall on his final run and finishing fourth.

"I took 150 percent risk, and I made a big mistake," said a despondent Prock, who took the silver behind Hackl in 1992 and, more maddeningly, 1994, when he lost by slightly more than one-hundredth of a second.

Though Prock's error cost him a medal, it did not cost him the gold. Hackl had already put that out of reach in the first three runs, and when he crossed the finish line after his final run and thrust his right arm triumphantly overhead, he had become the first luger and sixth person to win a Winter Olympic event three consecutive times.

The others were the figure skaters Gillis Grafstrom, Sonja Henie and Irina Rodnina; the Nordic combined skier Ulrich Wehling; and the American speedskater Bonnie Blair, who won the women's 500 in 1988, 1992 and 1994.

"It is an awesome feeling," said Hackl, who will continue sliding next season but essentially ruled out another Olympics in 2002. "I think the greatest victory for me was in 1994 because it was so close. It was my very best performance for driving because I think that I was at a slight disadvantage with my sled."

A slight disadvantage can make a large difference in luge, and this time Hackl took no chances. He designed new metal spikes to improve his starts, which have become a weakness since he underwent disc surgery on his back in October 1996. He tinkered with his sled and developed better runners.

He and Mueller, who won the gold in 1988 for East Germany, also showed up on the opening day of competition wearing new and presumably improved racing boots, which quickly drew an official protest from the American coach, Wolfgang Schneider, who claimed the boots were against regulations because they were not available to all the teams.

The race jury quickly rejected the protest.

"Hackl could drive a luge with these shoes," said Karl Rief, the Austrian coach, pointing to his hiking boots and grinning. "The difference was in the sled. You could hear it when he went by. I think the runners were smaller than other people's runners. He is a clever man."

And a fulfilled man. In the finish area, Hackl called his companion, Margit, on a cellular phone and shared his delight. "She didn't propose," he cracked. On the victory stand, he grabbed a German flag and waved it as Mueller and the Zoeggeler hoisted him on their shoulders, and before an official car whisked him down the valley for the official medal ceremony, Hackl made a detour by the beer tent for a quick stein of his region's favorite thirst-quencher.

"I am not a citizen of the world; I'm Bavarian," Hackl said.

An American Love Story

Wendel Suckow was the top American, finishing sixth in his final race before retirement. But, unlike Hackl, he got engaged. The Associated Press reported.

After the race Suckow proposed to Kim Fuhmann and gave her a diamond ring. She said yes.

Suckow kept the diamond ring in his backpack in the athlete's waiting room during his two runs on Monday.

Russian, 17, Knows What He Has to Do to Triumph

By Jere Longman
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — Before leaving Russia, the 56-year-old coach gave the 17-year-old student a lesson about figure skating's solar system. The European championships are on one planet, Alexei Mishin told Alexei Yagudin, and the Winter Olympics are on another planet.

The pressure will be immense, the coach told the skater. You must stay here, you must ride the bus there. The

FIGURE SKATING

old man seemed more nervous than the teenager. Finally, the teenager had enough.

"Shut up," Yagudin told Mishin. "I know what I have to do."

At 17, Yagudin has improbably become the European champion and an Olympic gold medal candidate with soaring jumps and towering confidence. Monday, three days before the men's short program, he landed an effortless quadruple-toe, triple toe combination. He will attempt it again in Saturday's long program. In the spring, Yagudin plans to try a quadruple axel. He is young enough that everything seems possible and immediate.

"I am not nervous," Yagudin said, with the assuredness of a man and the complexion of a teenager. "It's the same as any other competition."

Until he won a bronze medal at the 1997 world championships, few had expected him to qualify for these Winter Games. His training partner in St. Petersburg is the defending Olympic champion, Alexei Urmanov. In Nagano, it seemed that Urmanov would attempt to defend his title while Yagudin would have to wait his turn. But Urmanov withdrew from the world championships last March with a groin injury and has not competed since. So the champion Alexei stayed home and the callow Alexei has come to the Olympics in his place.

"It is the biggest tragedy of his life," Mishin said of Urmanov.

Because of Urmanov's injury, Russia qualified only two skaters for the Olympics, Yagudin and Ilya Kulik. If Yagudin is in awe, he is doing a good job of hiding it. He has apparently been waiting for this chance since he was 13 and he watched on television while Urmanov won the 1994 Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

"I will win in Nagano," Mishin said that Yagudin told him.

Yagudin remembers the story differently.

"I said maybe in the future I will win a medal," he said Monday, smiling at Mishin's embellishment.

The future has arrived by Federal Express. Beginning Thursday, Yagudin will challenge Kulik, Elvis Stojko of Canada and Todd Eldredge of the United States. Four men fighting for three medals. If there is any extra incentive for Yagudin, it is his awkward

OLYMPIC SCHEDULE	
TUESDAY, FEB. 10	
ALPINE SKIING, Nagano — Men's Combined (Slalom, 8:30 a.m.; Giant Slalom, 9:30 a.m.)	Women's Slalom (9 a.m.)
CURLING, Nagano — Men's Japan vs. Sweden, 9 a.m.; Canada vs. U.S., 9 a.m.; Switzerland vs. Britain, 9 a.m.; Germany vs. Norway, 9 a.m.; Canada vs. Britain, 9 a.m.; Germany vs. Sweden, 7 p.m.; U.S. vs. Norway, 7 p.m.; Switzerland vs. Japan, 7 p.m.; Women's Germany vs. U.S., 2 p.m.; Norway vs. Britain, 2 p.m.; Japan vs. Canada, 2 p.m.; Sweden vs. Denmark, 2 p.m.	FIGURE SKATING, Nagano — Pairs, free skate, 8 p.m.
SOCCER, Nagano — Men's Belarus vs. Japan, 2 p.m.; Kazakhstan vs. Slovakia, 2 p.m.; Italy vs. Austria, 6 p.m.; France vs. Germany, 6 p.m.	Luge, Nagano — Women's Single, 2 p.m.
SHOOTING, Nagano — Women's Giant Slalom, first run, 9:30 a.m.; Giant Slalom, second run, 1 p.m.	SPRINT SKIING, Nagano — Men's 500 meters, second round, 4:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11	
ALPINE SKIING, Nagano — Men's Downhill, 10 a.m.	SHOOTING, Nagano — Men's 200m, 1 p.m.
CURLING, Nagano — Women's Canada vs. Denmark, 9 a.m.; Japan vs. Sweden, 9 a.m.; Norway vs. Germany, 9 a.m.; Britain vs. U.S., 9 a.m.; Japan vs. Norway, 7 p.m.; U.S. vs. Denmark, 7 p.m.; Canada vs. Britain, 7 p.m.; Germany vs. Sweden, 7 p.m.; Men's Norway vs. Japan, 2 p.m.; U.S. vs. Switzerland, 2 p.m.; Germany vs. Canada, 2 p.m.; Sweden vs. Britain, 2 p.m.	FREE STYLE SKIING, Nagano — Women's Slalom, first round, 9 a.m.
SOCCER, Nagano — Women's Sweden vs. Canada, 9 a.m.; Norway vs. China, 4 p.m.; U.S. vs. Finland, 8 p.m.	Luge, Nagano — Women's Single, 2 p.m.
SHOOTING, Nagano — 100m Individual, 9:30 a.m.	SPRINT SKIING, Nagano — Women's 3000 meters, 3 p.m.

home life. His parents are divorced, and he lives with his mother and his grandmother in a St. Petersburg apartment. They share the apartment with strangers, using a common bathroom and kitchen but speaking seldom or never at all. An Olympic gold medal will mean a new apartment, a new life.

"I'm not thinking exactly that I have to skate for my family, but some of these thoughts are in my head," Yagudin said.

He can win, but it will be difficult. Stojko is a three-time world champion and the Olympic silver medalist. Eldredge is the 1996 world champion and extremely reliable, if not engaging. Kulik defeated Yagudin at an Olympic preview just before Christmas and again at the Russian championships. Mishin believes the Russian skating federation will work behind the scenes in Kulik's favor.

Kulik is from Moscow. Yagudin is from St. Petersburg. There is a natural rivalry and tension between the two camps.

When Mishin arrived at the European championships without Urmanov, he called Yagudin and 15-year-old Yevgeni Plushenko "my garbage and my refuse." Then Yagudin won, and now Mishin is saying, "He's a pretty good piece of garbage."

"Why do you criticize me?" Yagudin asked Mishin recently. "My jumps are perfect. My triple axel is the highest in the world."

Did he mind this teenage impudence? Not at all, Mishin said.

If he's not believing he's good, nobody's believing it," the coach said. "First you have to become a champion in your mind."

An NHL Goalie's 'Trip for Nothing'

By Rachel Alexander
Washington Post Service

NAGANO, Japan — Olaf Kolzig, the Washington Capitals' goaltender, was on a plane somewhere over Japan on Monday when his German national team lost to Belarus, 8-2, and was knocked out of the Olympic ice hockey competition.

"I found out after we landed at the airport, I saw the score on Japanese TV," Kolzig said. "It's disappointing. I made this whole trip basically for nothing."

Germany is one of eight teams playing in the tournament's three-game preliminary round, which started Feb. 7. Only two of those teams, one from each four-team pool, advance to the main draw, which includes more traditional hockey powers like Canada, Russia and the United States. Assisted by France's victory over Japan, Belarus clinched the Pool B title with the victory over Germany. It will close out competition Tuesday in a game against Japan.

With National Hockey League players competing in the Olympics for the first time, Germany expected a major boost from players like Kolzig, the Colorado Avalanche defenseman Uwe

Krupp and the San Jose Sharks forward Marco Sturm.

But because the NHL did not begin its two-week break until Feb. 8, Monday night was the earliest players were able to arrive in Japan. By then it was too late for Germany and the rest of pool B.

Slovakia and Kazakhstan remain alive in Pool A. They will play each other Tuesday, with the winner advancing to the main draw. The Capitals' right wing Peter Bondra, who also arrived Monday night, is hoping to play in that game, although the Slovak coach, Jan Sterbak, has not named his final roster yet.

After the loss to Belarus, the German coach, George Kingston, criticized the NHL for not either breaking a few days earlier or letting players on preliminary-round teams leave their NHL teams early. Players on teams in the main draw also arrived in Japan Monday, but their first game is not until Friday.

"Olaf Kolzig would have been a big factor if he was allowed to be here," Kingston said. "He's one of the finest hockey players in the National Hockey League at the goalie position. The National Hockey League is in business; they're not necessarily in sport. The

Olympics are about sport."

Kingston was furious that the Anaheim Mighty Ducks defenseman Ruslan Salei played for Belarus on Monday, scoring a goal. Just before the Olympic break, Salei earned a two-game suspension from the NHL for head-butting another player. Because he could no longer play for Anaheim, the Mighty Ducks allowed him to travel to Japan early enough to compete in the preliminary tournament.

"The competitive advantage that has happened here, that's unfair," Kingston said. "What's the lesson to players? Get suspended? The International Ice Hockey Federation has to put some spine in, some rules in. What's Latrell Sprewell doing? Is he playing in the Continental Basketball Association?"

Kolzig did not even play in the Capitals' game against Tampa Bay on Feb. 7; he instead watched from the bench while Bill Ranford got a turn in net. Kolzig's last start was Feb. 4, but he was not granted special permission to leave Washington early.

Despite Germany's elimination, Kolzig said he still wanted to play in either Tuesday's game against France or Thursday's consolation game.

to play. Murray replied: "Oh, yeah. His health is the first priority, whether it's the Olympics or any other situation. He's feeling well enough to play."

Canada plays its first game on Friday. Kariya said last week that it was his fourth concussion. He had hoped to play last Wednesday but sat out because of nausea, headaches and fatigue. He has said frequently that he was looking forward to playing in what would be his second Olympics.

In 1994, Kariya played well, but Canada won only a silver medal in part because Kariya was stopped during a postgame shoot-out by Tommy Salo, the goalie for Sweden, which won the gold through the tiebreaker formula.

Although he is a Canadian national, Kariya is of Japanese descent on his father's side. Hockey is not universally popular in Japan, but Kariya is known here and would likely become a local favorite if he plays in the Olympics.

The National Hockey League has marketed designs on Japan and staged two regular season games here in October. Kariya was supposed to play in them but missed because his contract was unsettled. The Japanese Olympic hockey team has generated considerable excitement among local fans.

Kariya's most recent concussion came after he scored a goal and was cross-checked in the jaw by Chicago's Gary Suter, a deal that got Suter suspended for four NHL games. Suter is one of the defensemen for Team USA. Last season, Kariya was hospitalized after defenseman Mathieu Schneider of Toronto elbowed him in the head. Schneider also is a member of Team USA.

Last week, Kariya said he knew that the effects of concussions were cumulative and that coming back too soon could increase the risk of serious brain damage. In recent seasons, concussions have become a major issue in sports.



Danielle Goyette of Canada colliding with Xuan Li of China during the first period Monday. Goyette scored the first goal as Canada won, 2-0.

U.S. Wins in Women's Hockey

The Associated Press

NAGANO, Japan — Three of the favorites won Monday in the women's ice hockey tournament.

The United States, favored along with Canada, the reigning champion, to play in the gold medal game, defeated Sweden, 7-1. Canada beat China, 2-0, and Finland crushed Japan, 11-1.

Sweden briefly led against the United States. The Swedish team leaped en

masse from the bench when Pia Morelius deflected Therese Sjoglander's power-play shot past U.S. goalie Sara DeCosta to make it 1-0 midway through the first period. It was Sweden's only shot in the period and one of three in the game.

China made Canada work for victory. Chinese goalie Guo Hong, the closest thing her team has to a star, turned back 38 of 40 Canadian shots.

SNOW: Storms Delay Events

Continued from Page 1

Japanese volunteers who chipped away at the ice on the steps that lead to the grandstands, Olympic offices and press workrooms.

The slalom course had disappeared beneath a layer of white at least a foot deep.

Blizzard is too harsh a word to describe the storm. The snow fell gently, but in remarkable quantity, a mountain equivalent of a monsoon swept in from the nearby sea. Occasionally, the snow would subside, and the sky would brighten, triggering fleeting optimism that the competition would finally begin.

Then the gods would do their work again, and the snow would return.

Hundreds of camouflage-clad members of the Japanese self-defense force dotted the mountainside in a war against the winter onslaught.

As Japanese rock music blared from loudspeakers, the men and women wore a frenzy of activity, their bright red or yellow plastic shovels a virtual blur of color.

Nagano Olympic banners were put to use as gravity chutes, carrying the shoveled snow downhill and to the side of the course, where it was carted away.

But with the snow falling at an inch an hour through the morning, after more than a foot fell overnight, the battle was lost. For the second consecutive day, crowds of spectators, many with bundled-up small children in tow, faithfully trudged on the hillside toward the finish line, standing in the cold for hours until being told that the day's event was canceled.

As the crowds departed down treacherously slick walkways and streets, the sun emerged and the sky cleared, revealing the panorama of the Hakuba valley and surrounding mountains.

Many of the super-G skiers took advantage of the break in the weather for a freestyle run down the women's hill.

Snow was predicted to resume overnight, and continue through Tuesday, but a forecast seems only a best guess in Japan.

"Most of the athletes have been to Japan and we've never gotten races off on schedule here," Podivinsky said. "Everybody has backup plans, and they're kicking in now."

Light Wax
Wax
Wax
Gold for
on Skier

OLYMPIC SCOREBOARD

MEALS

FREE STANDING

WHEELCHAIR

WHEELCHAIR

WHEELCHAIR

WHEELCHAIR

WHEELCHAIR

WHEELCHAIR

WHEELCHAIR

WHEELCHAIR

WHEELCHAIR

WHEELCHAIR

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WHEELCHAIR

WINTER OLYMPICS

Right Wax Paves Way To Gold for Finn Skier

The Associated Press

HAKUBA, Japan—If you doubt that Olympic medals can hinge on seemingly trivial details, consider the matter of ski wax.

Bjorn Dahlia of Norway, a five-time Olympic gold medalist in cross-country skiing, chose the wrong wax for the 30-kilometer (18-mile) event Monday. He finished a distant 20th.

Mika Myllylä of Finland made the right choice, and claimed his country's first gold medal in cross-country skiing since 1964.

The Finns tested skis for an hour before the race, coated in a persistent snowfall that left 45 fresh centimeters (18 inches) on the course.

"I tried six or seven pairs. I chose one pair, but I changed my mind at the last moment and picked a different set," Myllylä said. "They had a bit of gliding wax. We were lucky with waxing; it was very important in today's race."

Myllylä grabbed a Finnish flag in the home stretch and held it between his teeth as he crossed the line in one hour 33 minutes 55.8 seconds. Then he got on his knees and kissed the snow.

"Conditions were very hard, and the track is one of the toughest I've seen in years," he said. "This 30K was like a 50K in easier conditions."

While the Finns used gliding wax, the Norwegians chose a sticky wax with more grip.

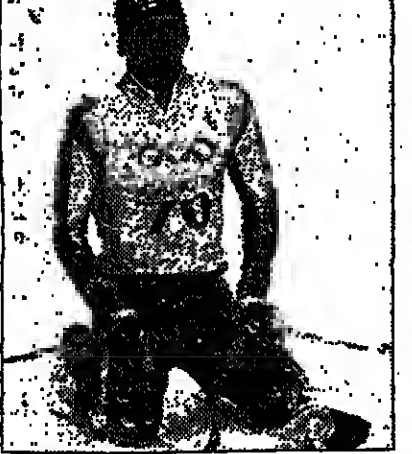
"Norway still had a medalist, Erling Jevne, who took the silver 1:31.1 behind Myllylä. But Dahlia finished more than six minutes behind, while the defending champion, Thomas Alsgaard, dropped out midway through the race while he was in 50th position. Silvio Fauser, a member of the Italian team that won the 1994 relay gold medal, won the bronze, 2:12.7 behind the winner.

Jevne, who used the same wax as Dahlia, said the Norwegians had problems getting the right mixture.

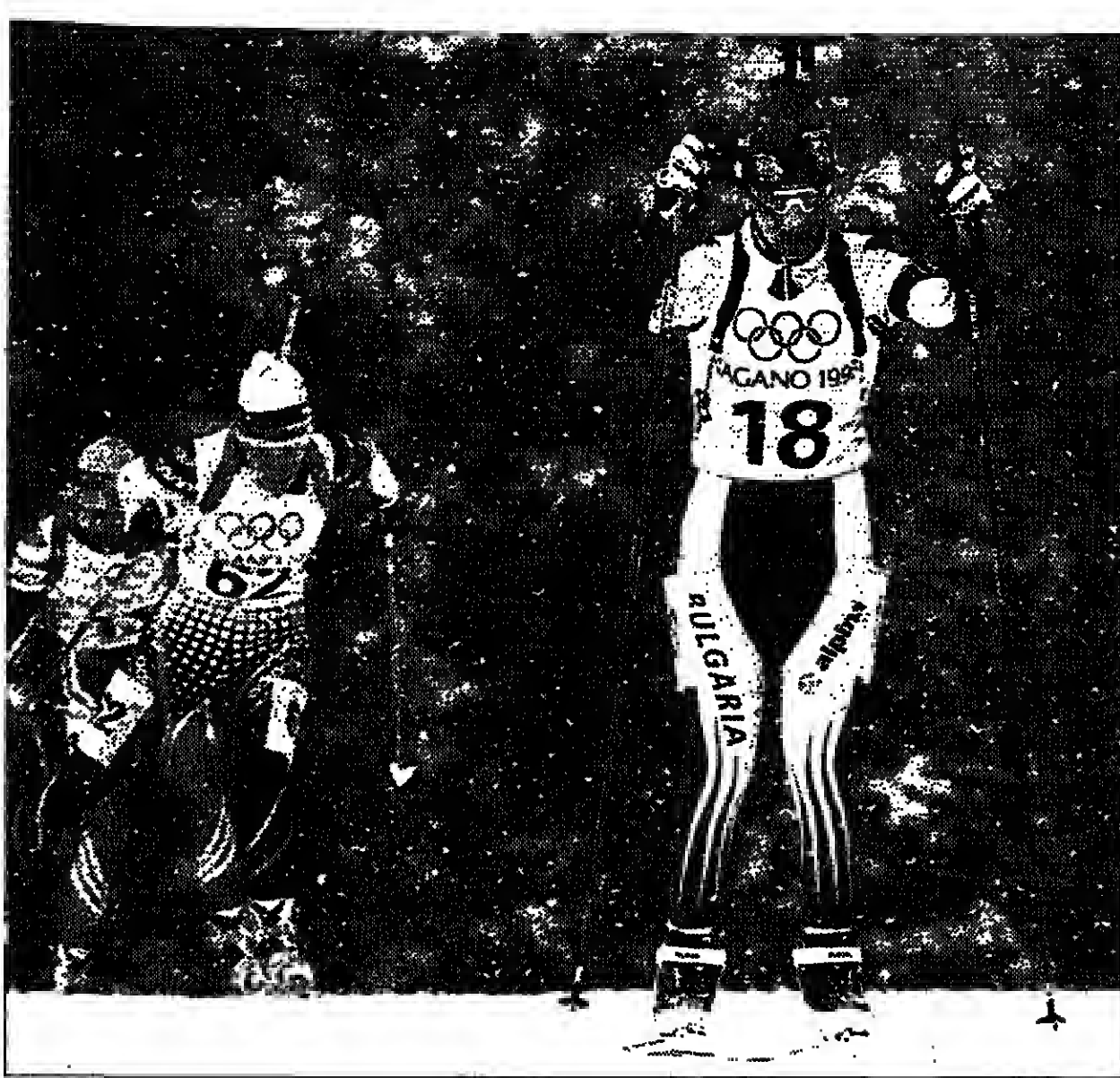
"We tested before the start, but we didn't know what the weather would be like during the race," said Jevne after winning his first Olympic medal.

"Myllylä's victory gave Finland its first men's gold medal since Eero Mäntyranta won two in Innsbruck, Austria, in 1964.

Last year, Myllylä became a hero in his country when he won the 50-kilometer title at the World Championship in Trondheim, Norway. Four years ago, he took bronze in the 30-kilometer and silver in the 50-kilometer races, plus the bronze in the relay.



Mika Myllylä, the winner of the 30-kilometer cross-country race.



Yekaterina Dufkova skiing to victory Monday on the cross-country course of the 15-kilometer biathlon.

A First for Bulgaria: Olympic Gold

Dufkova, Ranked 51st, Beats a Ukrainian in Women's Biathlon

By Denis D. Gray
The Associated Press

NOZAWA ONSEN—On a day that saw established stars falling like the snow that blanketed the 15-kilometer individual biathlon, the gold medal went to Yekaterina Dufkova, a Bulgarian woman ranked 51st in world competition.

Dufkova's unexpected triumph brought Bulgaria its first Winter Olympic gold medal ever. The silver went to another hitherto middle-ranked biathlete, Elena Petrova of Ukraine.

The only close-to-predictable outcome was a bronze for Germany's Ursula Ditzl, who also won bronze four years ago at Lillehammer, Norway.

"Dufkova, 27, finished the race in 54 minutes 52.9 seconds, while Petrova's time was 55:09.8 and Ditzl's 55:17.9."

"I had dreamed about hearing the Bulgarian anthem at the Olympics one day," Dufkova said. "I didn't realize it would come so soon."

She credited her success to "a perfect combination of shooting and skiing" — as well as the fact that her skis were waxed just right for the fresh snow.

Dufkova finished 29th in the event at the 1994 Winter Olympics and currently ranks only 51st in the World Cup. But she has won two bronzes in world championships.

The medalists overcame heavy snowfall and changes in wind direction, each successfully hitting all hot one of the 20 targets with their rifles. Hard skiing in soft snow did the rest.

Ditzl, 27, had victory in her rifle sights, but on her 20th and last shot she veered off target. She threw back her head and let out a cry.

"I was a bit mad at missing that 20th

shot, but that's normal for me," she said. "Anyway, a bronze is a bronze. I'm happy."

Others were not. Magdalena Forsberg of Sweden, currently No. 1 in World Cup standings, missed three targets, which added three penalty minutes to her time and put her into 14th place.

Forsberg appeared exhausted at the end, stumbling once on the final stretch, but unlike many of her competitors did not collapse on crossing the finishing line.

Although snowfall tapered off toward the end of the race, the heavy snow demanded more endurance.

The event Monday was the first of six events of Olympic biathlon competition that has drawn 200 biathletes from 32 nations. Russia, Norway and Germany are expected to take the bulk of the medals.

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

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Kevin Overland of Canada was in second place after the first day, and Casey FitzRandolph of the United States was in third.

Shimizu, 23, a shy, mild-mannered man who is also now the world-record holder, did not claim any credit but instead scolded himself in front of a crowd of thrilled Japanese reporters. He said he was stiff around the first corner and did not concentrate enough during the race.

But then, with a twinkle in his eye, Shimizu added that he might be able to come up with an even faster time on Tuesday.

"If I get a good start tomorrow, I should be O.K.," he said.

A small man with longish hair dyed brown in the fashion of young rebels in Japan, Shimizu comes

across as relaxed and diffident — just the opposite of the intense figure he is on ice.

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The blizzard of records in part reflected new technology for many of the skaters — including Shimizu — wore the new "clap skates" that are designed with a hinge at the front of the skate. That allows the skater to lift his foot without raising the skate by the same amount and is generally believed to produce faster times, after skaters get used to them.

The previous Olympic record, 36.33 seconds, fell in the first heat, as Ermanno Toriati of Italy roared in with 36.30 seconds. Theo FitzRandolph zipped around the course in 35.81 seconds, to set another record, and moments later Overland broke it again with 35.78. A few minutes later, the record fell yet again, as Shimizu came in first with 35.76. In all, 11 of the 42 skaters set times that surpassed the previous record.

"It was pretty fast today," said Derrick Auch, the Canadian coach. He said Jeremy Wotherspoon, a Canadian student who has won four of the six World Cup 500-meter races so far this season, would try on Tuesday to overcome his seventh-place rank in first-day racing, the result of a slip that forced him to touch the ice with his hand and slowed him down.

First-Time Olympians Looking for Respect

By Harvey Araon
New York Times Service

KARUIZAWA, Japan—At Kazakoshi Park Arena, four women's curling matches began Monday morning, and after decades of languishing in demonstration-sport purgatory, they were finally playing for medals.

Beginning with their 7-6 women's victory over the United States and their men's match later in the day against Japan, the long-dominant Canadians were, quite literally, going for a gold-medal sweep.

This sport, dating from 16th century Scotland — ancient by mainstream sports standards — involves sliding round granite stones (with a weight not exceeding 44 pounds, or 20 kilograms) down a long sheet of ice into a 12-foot (3.66-meter) circle known as the house, while two sweepers with straw or synthetic brooms help steer the stone by reducing the friction between the running stone and the ice.

Don't tell a curler that the game is something like shuffleboard on ice. They insist they are elite athletes, as worthy of a medal as anyone else.

"Curling is a finesse sport, but it is also mentally and physically grueling," said Lisa Schoenberg, the American skip, or captain, who shoots fourth, or last, and devises the strategy for each of the 10 ends, curling's version of innings. "Our athletes train just as hard as those in any other sport."

That said, the curling arena is where one can say hello to Paul Savage, a 50-year-old Olympian.

Savage is the alternate for the Canadian men's team, a 38-year curling veteran who welcomed himself to the Nagano Games last week by standing up at a news conference, running around and dropping his pants. He wanted to show off his new tattoo, a curling stone tucked inside the Canadian flag.

Such behavior is not so shocking, apparently, in curling circles, which enjoys its greatest popularity as a Canadian bowling-night-out.

Few towns in the prairies are without curling rinks. Major competitions are nationally televised and draw ratings that rank only behind hockey and baseball. The Olympic trials in Saskatoon,

Saskatchewan, drew 20,000. Most players, none of whom make their living at this, have nicknames, like the Canadian women's star and skip, Sandra Schmirler, "the Curler."

Arguably the most popular women's athlete in Canada, Schmirler, 34, out of Regina, Saskatchewan, has won three world championships, the last of which came in 1996 while she was six months pregnant. Three months later, during the Olympic trials, a match was interrupted while she took time out to breast feed her daughter.

"For five or six years I'd given my life to curling, and I wasn't going to do it any longer," she said. "I did what I had to do, and I think women are really good at that."

All right, this is not exactly the legendary material of cross-country, frost-on-the-beard skiing we are talking about, as the Canadian curler Eddie (the Wrench) Werinich would admit. Favored at the trials to make the Olympic team, Werinich, a fireman by trade, fell just short.

"I'm 50, overweight," he rationalized. "Standing on a podium, even I'd laugh."

The American men have a curler, in the third position, awaiting a kidney transplant. When Mike Peplinski, 24-year-old school teacher from Wisconsin, told his doctor he was going to the Olympics, the doctor replied, "And what sport are you playing in your condition?"

Curling nonetheless was granted full medal status after being a demonstration sport in 1924, 1932, 1988 and 1992. The game does require tremendous offensive and defensive strategy, as when Canada's third, Jan Beizer, scored a double-takeout in the 10th end Monday at a knocking American stones out of scoring position — as the American team, which trailed by 7-2, tried to rally for the upset victory.

The Canadian women, winners of five of the last six world titles, took a step toward adding the one elusive prize, an Olympic medal. The tournament runs seven days at the Games, with the men's and women's medals matches to be played Saturday and Sunday.

"This is the Olympics," Schmirler said. "We're going for the gold."

Shimizu Is Fastest as 11 Skaters Shatter 500-Meter Record

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

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Casey FitzRandolph, who placed third Monday.

OLYMPIC SCOREBOARD

MEDALS

COUNTRY STANDINGS

	G	S	B	Tot.
Norway	1	0	0	1
Finland	1	0	0	1
Germany	1	0	0	1
United States	1	0	0	1
Canada	1	0	0	1
Sweden	1	0	0	1
Italy	1	0	0	1
France	1	0	0	1
China	1	0	0	1
South Korea	1	0	0	1
Japan	1	0	0	1
Ukraine	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	1	0	0	1
Russia	1	0	0	1
Switzerland	1	0	0	1

BIATHLON

WOMEN'S 15K

1. Yekaterina Dufkova, Bulgaria, 54:52.0
2. Elena Petrova, Ukraine, 55:09.8
3. Ursula Ditzl, Germany, 55:17.9
4. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
5. Anna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
6. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
7. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
8. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
9. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
10. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
11. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
12. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
13. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
14. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
15. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
16. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
17. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
18. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
19. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1
20. Inna Shishikina, Kazakhstan, 55:18.1

CROSS COUNTRY

MEN'S 30K CLASSICAL

1. Mika Myllylä, Finland, 1:32:55.8
2. Erling Jevne, Norway, 1:36:27.1
3. Silvio Fauser, Italy, 1:36:08.5
4. Jari Isometsä, Finland, 1:36:51.4
5. Jari Isometsä, Finland, 1:36:51.4
6. Jari Isometsä, Finland, 1:36:51.4
7. Jari Isometsä, Finland, 1:36:51.4
8. Jari Isometsä, Finland, 1:36:51.4
9. Jari Isometsä, Finland, 1:36:51.4
10. Jari Isometsä, Finland, 1:36:51.4
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19. Jari Isometsä, Finland, 1:36:51.4
20. Jari Isometsä, Finland, 1:36:51.4

OLYMPIC SCOREBOARD

MEDALS

COUNTRY STANDINGS

	G	S	B	Tot.
Norway	1	0	0	1
Finland	1	0	0	1
Germany	1	0	0	1
United States	1	0	0	1
Canada	1	0	0	1
Sweden	1	0	0	1
Italy	1	0	0	1
France	1	0	0	1
China	1	0	0	1
South Korea	1	0	0	1
Japan	1	0	0	1
Ukraine	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	1	0	0	1
Russia	1	0	0	1
Switzerland	1	0	0	1

BIATHLON

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OLYMPIC SCOREBOARD

MEDALS

COUNTRY STANDINGS

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